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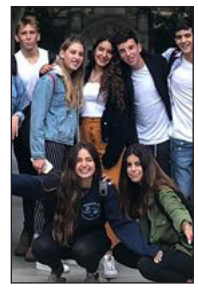

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JEWISH NEWS

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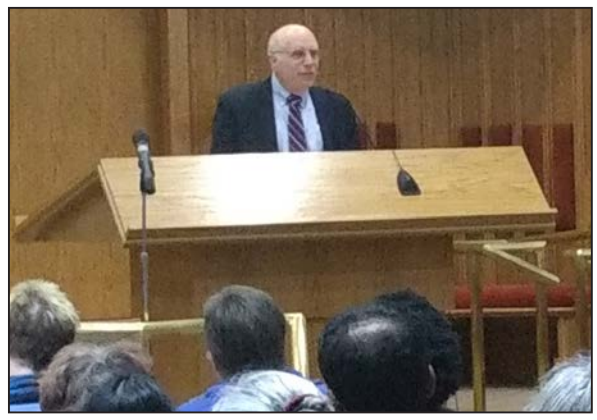
Interfaith Thanksgiving celebration welcomes all

George Lambrides, special to the WJN

Thanksgiving is one of those holidays that is more of a national holiday than a religious holiday. True, there are religious services both on the designated day (this year it's November 22) and on the weekend following. Locally, the Interfaith Round Table has chosen the Sunday before Thanksgiving day to give everyone the opportunity to express gratitude publicly and do so in an interfaith context. The advantage of this timing is that Thanksgiving is less sectarian than many other holidays. It is a good time for people of all faiths (and for those with no faith tradition at all) to stand together and say thank you.

Over the past 24 years, this community event has been hosted by many local religious congregations (Jewish, Buddhist, Unitarian Universalist, Hindu, Christian, Interfaith and Baha'i). Those who come together for this one hour of gratitude and celebration have the chance to do so with people from many faith backgrounds. This in and of itself is unique. There is no proselytizing nor missionizing, but neither is there a watering down of the expression of gratitude whatever its form. The organizers ask program participants to be thoroughly who they are religiously so that their voice is true to their tradition. Then, when it comes to singing or saying something as a whole group, the language is as inclusive as possible. Is it perfect for everyone? Probably not, but each year there are attempts to improve on it.



2017 celebration at Beth Israel Congregation, hosted by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin

The theme for this year's celebration is "Compassion and Beauty." As with most years, there will be readings, prayers, meditation and music offered from a variety of traditions. At the core of most religious traditions is a commitment to compassion. Events like this one call people together to live out that compassion and stand with others who hold to the same value.

This year's celebration will be Sunday evening, November 18, at 7 p.m., at Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Avenue. For those who wish to come early, there will be an open house beginning at 6 p.m. For additional information, call (734) 649-0107. ■

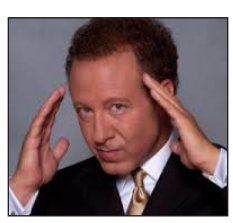
Mentalist to the Stars at the Federation's Main Event

Sharyn J. Gallatin, special to the WJN

The local community will have the opportunity to witness the talents of mentalist Sidney Friedman at the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's *Main Event* Thursday, December 6, at 6 p.m., at Washtenaw Community College, Towsley Auditorium. Friedman is sure to dazzle the audience with his telepathic talents and his psychic abilities.

The 2018 *Main Event* co-chairs are Roberta and Larry Tankanow and their children, Alyse Tankanow and Joe Cohen and Jennifer and Andrew Tankanow. Alyse Tankanow, co-chair says: "Joe and I are thrilled to be co-chairing this year's Main Event with my brother Andy, sister-in-law Jenn and our parents, Roberta and Larry. We moved back to Ann Arbor two years ago to be closer to family and a wonderful community. It is our hope that the Jewish community continues to grow and flourish here bringing in new events for all generations with the strong support and partnership of the Jewish Federation. This is sure to be a wonderful gathering of awe-inspiring entertainment, music and *tzedakah.* We look forward to seeing you on December 6 for a fun and meaningful evening."

Uniquely, and of great excitement to audiences, Friedman combines his music and mental gifts with a demonstration of what he calls "Music Mind Reading" where he senses the exact tunes on people's minds then beautifully plays them on the piano.



Sidney Friedman

Today Show host Hoda Kotb states, "A few people are better at seeing the future than others, like mentalist Sidney Friedman. We love Sidney." The *New York Post*'s Carrie Seim writes Friedman is "eerily accurate!" And *Forbes Magazine* calls Friedman, "the mentalist to the stars" for his numerous celebrity clients.

Performing over 110 shows and speaking engagements a year, Friedman's clients include hundreds of charitable organizations. He says, "The world population recently surpassed seven billion people. That's a lot of people with seemingly so many differences, but we all have one thing in common: Connection. We all seek connection. That's why what I do is so important. When we are in tune with each other's minds, it brings people together. It connects. It bonds. It brings us closer in deeper understanding. And what a better thing to do in a world where there are frictions, a world where we yearn for peace on earth and good will toward all."

New this year is a Pre-Glow for those 45 and under. Attendees to the Pre-Glow will have a meet and greet with Friedman and can enjoy Hanukkah-themed drinks, along with other fun activities.

Entry to the *Main Event* is $60 per person; entry for students and those under the age of 30 is $25 and includes entry into the Pre-Glow. Entry to the Pre-Glow is $18 for those aged 30–45. Participants will be asked to support the community with a minimum $125 pledge to the Jewish Federation's 2019 Annual Community Campaign; students and those under the age of 30 will be asked to make a meaningful pledge to the 2019 Annual Community Campaign.

To register for the Main Event, visit www.jewishannarbor.org/ME2018 or call Sharyn Gallatin at (734) 677-0100, ext. 228. ■

Dash Moore to speak on immigrants and refugees

Laurie Cohen, special to the WJN

On Sunday, November 11, Deborah Dash Moore, Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor of History and Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, will present a JFS-sponsored program "Immigrants and Refugees: Today, Yesterday, and Tomorrow." According to Dash Moore, "The United States has a checkered history of alternatively welcoming and rejecting immigrants and refugees. Jews have stood on both sides of the metaphorical American fence as natives and strangers, as immigrants (legal and illegal) and refugees." Her talk will cover the questions: "How have Jews responded to crises in the past? How does examining that past help us understand what is happening today?"

Deborah Dash Moore

As an historian of American Jews, Dash Moore has published an acclaimed trilogy examining the years from 1920 to 1960, including the experience of Jewish soldiers in World War II. As an historian of New York City, she served as general editor for the award-winning three-volume *City of Promises: A History of Jews in New York City*. Her most recent book, *Jewish New York: The Remarkable Story of a City and a People* (2017), synthesizes those three volumes. Currently Dash Moore is editor-in-chief of the ten-volume *Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization* published by Yale University Press.

The program will take place at Mediterrano Restaurant, in the Concord Center Shops, 2900 S State Street. A suggested donation of $10/person will include the lecture and dessert reception. ■

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Editorial

From the editor

The weekend of October 20, I celebrated my great-niece Evie's bat mitzvah in Pittsburgh in the same shul as Tree of Life Congregation. One week later, on October 27, a gunman murdered 11 of their fellow congregants. One was their very close friend and I had photographed Jerry and his wife Miri as they celebrated Evie's accomplishments with us. Now, he is dead.

In the last couple of weeks, assassination attempts on President Obama, Vice-President Biden, President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, numerous Democratic legislators, a Jewish philanthropist and journalists failed, but only from incompetence on the part of the bomber. All the intended victims have been repeatedly vilified by President Trump and some of his more enthusiastic supporters.

Also last week, two African-Americans, Maurice Stallard and Vickie Lee Jones were shot dead at a grocery store near Louisville, Kentucky, for no other reason than the color of their skin.

According to an annual report by the Anti-Defamation League issued earlier this year, the number of reported anti-Semitic incidents in the United States surged 57 percent in 2017, the largest rise in a single year since the A.D.L. began tracking such crimes in 1979. In fact, there has been a surge in hate-related speech and crimes across America. Trump's hateful rhetoric has had serious consequences on American life. He has shown no respect for the institutions necessary for a functioning democracy—respect for the courts, the law, a free press, and each other.

After reading Timothy Snyder's book *On Tyranny* soon after the 2016 election, I knew that I had to do everything I could to fight the threats to our democracy. I became even more resolute after going to the Women's March in Washington DC in January 2017. Since then, I have worked tirelessly as part of the group Protectors of Equality in Government, whose goal is having a government that treats all people with equality and acceptance. We have published a weekly newsletter, maintained an active Facebook page as a means to share relevant news articles, and hosted speakers to educate us about the issues we care about—racism, gun control, immigrants rights, protecting our environment, women's rights, health care protections, rights for LGBTQ, voters' rights, and more.

Elections have consequences.
– President Barack Obama

It has been a difficult, often heart-breaking two years. It has been a bitter, vitriolic midterm election season. The anguish and sorrow I feel as I write this in response to the senseless murders in Pittsburgh is almost unbearable, but the community-wide memorial service held October 28 at Temple Beth Emeth brought some solace and I am grateful for that.

My good friend Sonya Lewis reminds us, "If all you are doing is thinking and praying, then you are part of the problem. ACT. VOLUNTEER. CANVASS. CALL. VOTE!!!" Judaism is a religion of action. So please, do all you can, and then vote on November 6. Our lives and our country depend on it.

Susan Kravitz Ayer, editor

The evening of October 28, the Ann Arbor Jewish community, joined by their non-Jewish neighbors, gathered for a memorial service for those murdered at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh the previous day. The hope was that by coming together, we as a community could bring peace and comfort into this chaotic and tragic moment. What follows is the address given by Eileen Freed, executive director, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.

Today, we are overcome with grief and heartbreak. Our community mourns the eleven people who were murdered at Tree of Life and stands together in solidarity with the Jewish community in Pittsburgh, a community that has been a generous partner to ours.

Four of us learned of this attack while preparing to leave our partner community in Israel, Moshav Nahalal. You should know that our friends there visibly shocked and shaken by what occurred in Pittsburgh and stand with us as well.

We send our condolences, our love and our support to the victims, their families and the brave law enforcement officers who were wounded while protecting others. We send prayers for המלש האופר (refuah shlema) - a speedy and full recovery - to the injured. May the memories of those killed in this horrific attack be a blessing.

I am moved by the heartwarming display of communal caring and solidarity the candle lighting we just completed and the huge number who came out tonight represents. Thank you, our dear partners and friends.

The increasing regularity and normalization of anti-Semitic, racist and hate rhetoric and violence is a threat to all of us. We must unite and stand together in addressing anti-Semitism and hate in all forms, and not just in times of tragedy. I hope this gathering will spur us to make an even greater effort to get to know one another better, understand each other's issues and concerns, work together for the benefit of our community, AND stand up for one another as allies when any of us is under attack.

I am honored to share some words my son, a rabbinical student wrote today:

"The beauty of Shabbat is that even a seemingly unremarkable Shabbat is a taste of the world to come, a time when we pause, when we unplug, when we feel the comforting presence of the סולש תכוס, the shelter of God's peace. Abraham Joshua Heschel, wrote that Shabbat is a 'palace in time...'"

The terrorist attacked that palace itself.

This raises essential questions: How will Shabbat feel next week? How can we expect to feel safe in our houses of worship? How do we fortify our "palace in time" without destroying its very essence?

Our community leaders take these questions very seriously. We have many strong security measures in place - some obvious, others hidden – and we know how important it is to stay vigilant in protecting our community. We are already setting meetings over the days and weeks ahead, to review and, if necessary, improve our systems to keep us safe. We cannot let this heinous attack on our people and on our way of life prevent us from living full Jewish lives or turning our community into an insular fortress.

As is the case in Pittsburgh, our community – the Jewish community and the larger Ann Arbor community combined – is a Tree of Life. Together, let us nourish it, from its roots to its trunks and leaves, so that we can flourish for generations to come. ■

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

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Women, Jewish law and the #MeToo movement

Maxine Solvay, special to the WJN

How does Jewish Law accommodate the voices and rights of women? Has it always been so patriarchal, or is it possible that what we think of as "tradition" may be much more recent attempts to put women "back" in their place? Do Jewish textual sources offer insight into understanding the voices of the #MeToo movement?

Rabbi Nadav Caine

Join Hadassah on Tuesday, November 13, at 7:30 p.m., for this most-interesting and topical discussion with Rabbi Nadav Caine. Rabbi Caine joined Beth Israel Congregation as its senior rabbi in July of this year. He hails from Philadelphia and his wife, Lynne, is from Denver. Rabbi Caine became a Conservative rabbi in his 40s after a life in Jewish Studies scholarship and teaching; Lynne Caine retired from 16 years in the Clark County School District and is a full time mom to their two young daughters.

The meeting will be held at the home of Sue Adler, 3010 Exmoor, Registration is required by contacting Michele Israel at mi24@aol.com. The meeting is open to all Hadassah members and associates, and to

anyone with an interest in Hadassah.

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. (HWZOA) is the largest Jewish women's organization in the United States. With over 300,000 members, associates and supporters, Hadassah brings Jewish women together to effect change and advocate on critical issues such as medical care and research and women's empowerment. Through the Hadassah Medical Organization's two hospitals, the world-renowned trauma center and the leading research facility in Jerusalem, Hadassah supports the delivery of exemplary patient care to over a million people every year. HMO serves without regard to race, religion or nationality and earned a Nobel Peace Prize Nomination in 2005 for building "bridges to peace" through equality in medical treatment. For more information, visit www.hadassah.org. ■

Jewish Film Festival Committee forming now

Clara Silver, special to the WJN

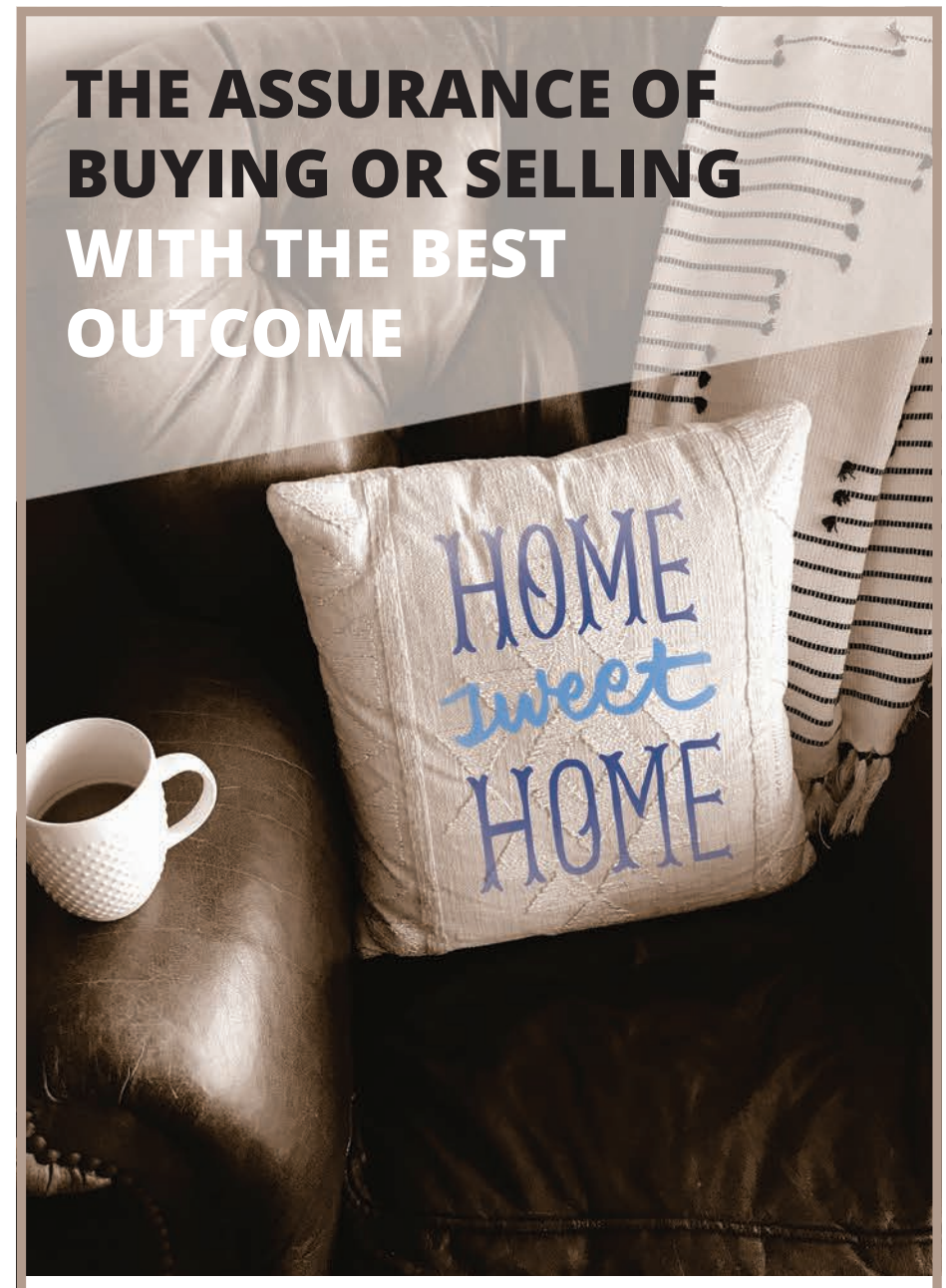
Next spring the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will host the 18th Ann Arbor Jewish Film Festival, running May 12–16, 2019, at the historic Michigan Theater in downtown Ann Arbor. In addition, the May 2019 Film Festival will mark its fifth year as a wholly independent festival, with all films chosen by a committee of volunteers, which is now forming. The festival has always depended on a strong committee, however, five years ago, when the festival separated from its long-time parent festival, the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival hosted by the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, the committee's role expanded.

Dr Bradley Axelrod

The most significant responsibility of the independent film festival committee is determining what films will be shown each year. Committee members are responsible for watching, reviewing, and discussing the long list of available films, generally dividing up 90–100 film titles among themselves. They engage in friendly debate and ultimately choose the particular set of films for that year which will pique the interest of the Ann Arbor Jewish community and which will bring an engaging variety of Jewish related topics, issues, history, and culture to the local screen. The committee is the key to creating a Jewish Film Festival that reflects Ann Arbor's diverse Jewish community.

This year's committee will meet on four Sunday mornings starting with December 2, 2018, at 10 a.m., with a traditional lox and bagels breakfast being served. With a total of only four meetings, committee members are expected to attend at least two of them. The committee's goal is to choose films for up to 15 time slots over the five-day festival, along with helping to publicize the festival and inspire others to participate as sponsors or ticket holders. Brad Axelrod, who chaired the committee during the transition to an independent festival remarked, "As former committee chair and ongoing active committee member, one of the most exciting aspects of this work is learning about the movies produced each year that are of interest to Jewish viewers. Sharing thoughts about those films with individuals representing the broad spectrum of our community is an added bonus."

The committee is always in search of new members. According to Director of Jewish Cultural Arts and Education, Karen Freedland, who directs the film festival, "the people who join the committee enjoy watching films, particularly art films or films with Jewish themes, and want to help make decisions about which films are top quality and should be brought to Ann Arbor." Freedland looks forward to talking with members of the community who want to join the 2019 committee. To participate, or for more information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org or (734) 971-0990. ■



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Third Thursday @ the J speakers are on and off screen

Rachael Hoffenblum, special to the WJN

The Israel Center and Third Thursday @ the J will join forces at noon on Thursday, November 15, to present Hadas Fuchs, a researcher from the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel, in a special live-stream lecture direct from her office in Israel. Fuchs' presentation will address the "Picture of the Nation" booklets published by the Taub Center and available in advance at the J. The publication highlights a year of research in areas including demographics, economics, welfare, healthcare, education, and employment. The Taub Center for Social Policy Studies is an independent, nonpartisan, socioeconomic research institute that researches social and economic factors in Israel and dialogues with policy makers. The Israel Center @ the J provides opportunities for individuals to engage with Israel thoughtfully and respectfully, together as a community. Clara Silver, director of the Israel Center @ the J, noted that, "this is a great opportunity for us to use technology to hear from a researcher in Israel who we simply could not host in person. We hope to offer more live-stream events over the course of the year – this is just the first."

Hasas Fuchs

Russ Collins, CEO and executive director of the Michigan Theater for over three decades will join Third Thursday @ the J on Thursday, December 20, at noon. He will talk about the history of the State and Michigan Theaters. Collins hosts a monthly film discussion group at the J.

Russ Collins

Third Thursday @ the J presentations are free of charge and open to the public, however, advance registration is appreciated. Participants are welcome to bring their own dairy, nut-free lunch, or purchase a lunch from the Lunch Café. The Lunch Café menu is catered by local chef, Karan Balmer, and is available on the Ann Arbor JCC's website. Anyone planning to purchase lunch must reserve it at least one day in advance by calling (734) 971-0990. To register for Third Thursday @ the J, learn more about Lunch Café, or for more information, visit jccannarbor.org or contact Rachael Hoffenblum, operations manager and adult program coordinator, at rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org or (734) 971-0990. ■

Klezmephonics at Kerrytown Concert House

Emily Vandervoort, special to the WJN

On November 17, at 8 p.m., Klezmephonic will return to Kerrytown Concert House for a night of rollicking freylakhs, sweet cradle songs, and hot American vaudeville tunes. Their sound stems from the Eastern European Jewish folk music of the 19th and 20th centuries, sprinkled with swing and Roma Gypsy stylings, sounds of upbeat and virtuosic Freilakhs, Bulgars and the beautiful flowing melodies of Yiddish Song.

The Klezmephonics

Jennie Lavine, a talented and very versatile clarinetist, living in Ann Arbor, had the idea of forming a Klezmer band in her home town. She brought together Will Cicola on accordion, David Sharp on bass, Karapetyan on violin, and Alex Belhaj on guitar.

The group is formed with a rich diversity of ethnic and musical backgrounds. Karapetyan comes from Armenia with significant classical training. Sharp is one of the most in demand bass players in the area, with a background in jazz and world music. Lavine grew up in a Jewish-American family which helped build a serious repertoire.

Klezmephonic is known as Ann Arbor's premier Klezmer band by the *Ann Arbor Observer*. Since then, the band has performed in numerous venues, from concert halls to temples, universities, festivals and bar pitzvahs, both locally and nationally. A full-scale CD recorded in 2015, called Ot Azoy, features some of the best pieces in the Klezmer repertoire.

The band had some recent changes after Lavine and Belhaj relocated to New Orleans. Janelle Reichman, a local clarinetist, replaced Lavine and the core trio of Karapetyan, Reichman and Sharp is often accompanied by friends who have played with them on many occasions and in various bands. Drummers Mike List, Rob Avsharian and Caroline Koebel, along with guitarists Alex Anest and Elden Kelly, are frequently seen with Klezmephonic. ■

Tickets for the concert are $10–$30. For more information, contact emily@kerrytownconcerthouse.com or call (734) 769-2999.

Changing lives through food

Lonnie Sussman, staff writer

Soon there will be a new assisted living and memory facility in Washtenaw County. Vibrant Life Senior Living is opening soon at the corner of Geddes and Prospect roads in Superior Township. Founder and co-owner Dean Solden describes Vibrant Life as different from other communities in its focus on people's quality of life and meaningful relationships, not only with residents and their families but also with the staff and their families. One way to accomplish this goal seems to be with food.

Dean Selden, Tiffani Gordon and Gail Geer

Tiffani Gordon, a professional chef, will be in charge of both the food services and programs around food at Vibrant Life Senior Living, Superior Twp. As a part of their Vibrant programming, as well as making sure there is great Jewish food at Vibrant Life, Solden recently introduced Gordon to Gail Geer, another professional chef and baker with a background in Jewish food and culture. At a recent interview, Gordon and Geer shared their "life changing" experience of working together. The excitement and connection between the two women and their joy of shared experiences was palpable.

"Life changing" is a powerful expression but Gordon explained how this happened. She went to Geer's home in Chelsea for a lesson on cooking some classic Jewish foods but ended up learning much more. When she arrived at Geer's she saw a prep table with familiar ingredients, flour, eggs, sugar, potatoes. After six hours of working and sharing stories, both women expressed how deeply moved they were with their similarities.

Gordon is an African-American woman who learned about cooking at her grandmother's knee. Geer is a Jewish woman whose bubbie taught her how to cook. Gordon, with absolutely no background information about Jewish culture and traditions, was surprised to see that "peasant food" was the basis for both of their food cultures. She learned that Jewish food also meant using everything available (except pork and shellfish and mixing milk and meat products). Still, the use of all parts of the chicken, including the feet and beef as well as organ meats were integral to both African-American and Jewish culture.

Both women described the cooking and sharing process as a physical and emotional experience. Their hands were constantly moved — kneading, mixing and stirring while they shared their stories. They both poured salt into the palms of their hand as a measure. Latkes and hash browns became symbols of shared food shaped by the two cultures. An African-American rice pudding translated into kugel, a Jewish noodle pudding. Corn meal to make cornbread, a staple of African-American cooking was viewed like matzah meal used for matzah balls. The ingredients were similar, the outcomes reflected different traditions and cultures but not as dissimilar as they once thought.

Gordon was so excited about the emotional connections to food she found in both cultures and she plans on bringing that experience to her work at Vibrant Life and back to her family and community. She said, "I look at people, all people, so differently now." She sees the bonds and similarities between people of all races and creeds. She states, "What are we fighting about when we have so much in common?". Geer commented "I sense more now that our similarities are greater than our differences and that food can be a unifying force."

Gordon and Geer plan to continue their relationship with food and with each other. They laughed as they told the story how Geer's Bubbie always seemed to leave an ingredient out of her special recipes and Gordon's grandmother wouldn't share her recipe for Butter Cake with Icing with anyone but Gordon. Hopefully, she will make it for the residents at Vibrant Life.

Spurred on by Gordon and Geer's unexpected but intimate connection, Solden and Vibrant Life plan on introducing Gordon to other chefs of other cultures, continuing their mission of breaking down barriers, not only between seniors and the rest of the community, but all people in the community. As Gordon now says, "maybe we can change the world, one meal at a time." ■

You can reach Vibrant Life Senior Living, Superior Township at info@vibrantlifesuperior.comor or (734) 506-0630.

New Jewish engagement program, ChaiMitzvah, to launch in January

Marci Sukenic, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor is thrilled to partner with Chai Mitzvah in order to ignite Ann Arbor Jewish life. Chai Mitzvah groups will be forming throughout the community, launching in January, 2019. Groups are for all ages — anyone who is interested in getting involved in the Jewish community, engaging in meaningful discussion, participating in social action and having fun. Each participant will commit to at least nine monthly meetings throughout the year for discussion, learning and dialogue. Participants will also have the opportunity to develop an individual bucket list of ways to enhance his/her Jewish identity, though ritual and social action project; these bucket lists can be tailored to one's own Jewish priorities. Chai Mitzvah groups will be meeting monthly in locations across the community and can also be integrated into pre-existing groups or classes. Anyone interested in joining a group, or has questions about the program, can contact Marci Sukenic, Chai Mitzvah community coordinator, at marci@jewishannarbor.org or (734) 677-0100, ext 226. ■

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Moth GrandSLAM winner Aaron Wolfe's stories have been featured on NPR, *The Moth* podcast, *Risk!* and countless other shows around the country.

There will be an hors d'oeuvres reception and desserts.

Tickets: $18 per person; $10 for students with ID

RSVP to Celia Murkowski at **734-487-5634** or at ***true.mu/wolfe***

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

The EMU Center for Jewish Studies Speaker/Performance Series brings respected thought leaders and artists to EMU's campus to conduct public lectures, lead conversations, and engage with the university and greater Southeast Michigan communities.

This event is sponsored by Hillel at Eastern Michigan University, the EMU Department of English, and the EMU Department of Communication, Media, and Theater Arts. We would also like to offer a special thank you to Harlene and Henry Appelman.

General Education LBC approved

GI JEWS: Jewish Americans in World War II

Kelsey Robinette, special to the WJN

Documentary filmmaker Lisa Ades will be on campus this November for a screening of her latest work, *GI JEWS: Jewish Americans in World War II.* The film, based on Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor Deborah Dash Moore's 2004 book, GI Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation, has appeared at several film festivals across the United States and premiered on PBS this past April to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day. The screening will be followed by a discussion with Ades and Dash Moore, who also served as a senior advisor for the film. The event will be held at the University of Michgain Museum of Art Auditorium at 5:30 p.m. on November 6.

Ades first became interested in making a film about Jews in World War II in 2012 during her production of a documentary about the history of Jewish people in Syria. While speaking with Jews of Syrian decent in America, she learned about their experiences in World War II. "Their stories were fascinating and surprising—how after Pearl Harbor they had lied about their age in order to enlist; what it meant to serve as children of immigrants; the antisemitism they confronted in basic training on their way to fight the Nazis; the horror of the concentration camps they liberated; and how, on their return home, they found themselves changed forever," she said.

"I was surprised that even though several films had been made on aspects of Jewish Americans in WWII, no one had yet made a comprehensive documentary on the subject," Ades said. "Here, we would be able to tell the stories of Jews not only as victims of the war, but as Americans fighting for both their nation and their people." She turned to Dash Moore's book, which tells the stories of 15 Jewish men who enlisted during World War II and how they simultaneously managed the demands of military service and the prejudices of their fellow American soldiers.

Through interviews with historians and Jewish World War II veterans including Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner, and Henry Kissinger, viewers learn what it was like for Jewish Americans fighting bigotry at home and abroad. "The challenge was how to capture these stories while the men and women who served were still alive to tell them," said Ades. "In 2013, fewer than 6 percent of WWII veterans, mostly in their 90s, were still alive. This was our last chance to record these stories, so we appealed to the NEH [National Endowment for the Humanities], which had awarded us development and production grants, to release 'emergency funds' to begin interviewing. Remarkably, our first day of shooting, in December 2014, was at 92-year-old Carl Reiner's house in Beverly Hills. A gentleman and a mensch, he sat for an interview and then allowed us to interview his close friend and fellow GI Jew Mel Brooks there that same afternoon. It was an auspicious start to the project."

Ades recorded almost 40 interviews with Jewish veterans, many of which did not make it to the final cut. The line she regrets having to cut the most? "Jews did their part. Don't ever forget it," said by Bea Abrams Cohen, a 104-year-old Lithuanian immigrant and the oldest living female veteran in California at the time of her in interview in 2014.

Ades hopes viewers walk away with a better understanding of the many Jewish Americans who have served in U.S. wars, going at least as far back to the Civil War, and how important the fight for equality still is now. "Today, with the rise of white supremacists, xenophobia, and anti-immigrant sentiment in the United States and throughout the world, these stories of the children of Jewish immigrants fighting anti-Semitism at home in order to fight it abroad—and thereby becoming more American and Jewish in the process—resonate profoundly for me.

"Every American has a relationship to World War II," Ades continued, "but the role of Jewish American service people has not been fully explored on film. It's been gratifying to hear from Jewish Americans about how grateful they are that this story has been told for a national audience. Many Jews don't know the full history of this period, and it's important for non-Jewish audiences to learn about the Jewish experience of World War II, from the standpoint of the men and women who served." ■

$20M D. Dan and Betty Kahn Foundation gift expands Michigan-Israel Research Partnership

Alex Piazza, special to the WJN

Consider a future in which robots work alongside humans to search for disaster survivors and seniors monitor their response to bacterial infections in real time.

A $20 million gift from The D. Dan and Betty Kahn Foundation will expand collaboration among researchers at the University of Michigan, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel to help enhance quality of life through advancements in robotics and precision health.

"Collaboration is critical when addressing important societal issues like precision health and robotics," said S. Jack Hu, U-M vice president for research and the J. Reid and Polly Anderson Professor of Manufacturing. "In partnering with our colleagues at two of the world's leading research universities, we are able to accelerate the promising potential in these significant areas of research."

Since 2011, researchers at U-M, Technion and Weizmann have collaborated on nearly 50 competitively funded research projects as part of the Michigan-Israel Partnership for Research and Education. The partnership, funded by philanthropic gifts, supports research, fosters innovation and spurs collaboration among the three institutions in fields ranging from biomedical sciences to engineering. With this new gift, The D. Dan and Betty Kahn Foundation has given a total of $25 million to U-M for the partnership.

"In this day and age, international and interdisciplinary collaborations are vital to the future of science and engineering," said Boaz Golany, vice president for external relations and resource development at Technion. "The support of The D. Dan and Betty Kahn Foundation enables three leading universities to join hands in a partnership that , but worldwide."

"We are grateful to The D. Dan and Betty Kahn Foundation for this visionary gift," said Israel Bar-Joseph, vice president of resource development and public affairs at Weizmann. "We look forward to building an impactful research program that will deepen the relations between these three great institutions."

Larry Wolfe, president of the D. Dan and Betty Kahn Foundation, announced a $20,000,000 gift to the Michigan-Israel Partnership for Research and Education at the University of Michigan Museum of Art in October.

Last month, researchers from all three institutions gathered in Ann Arbor as part of the seventh-annual D. Dan and Betty Kahn Symposium. The gift will support two large inter-university research projects, the annual symposium and smaller-scale collaborative projects.

"The D. Dan and Betty Kahn Foundation is pleased to support this unique partnership as an outgrowth of the Kahn Symposium that began in 2011," said Larry Wolfe, president of The D. Dan and Betty Kahn Foundation. "We see the partnership as a natural extension of Dan Kahn's vision and an opportunity for three of the world's great universities to pursue transformative research advancements in health, science and education. We hope this gift will inspire others to support this incredible cause."

Collaborative research projects

One project aims to advance the frontiers of autonomous robotic science by discovering new principles, creating new technology and demonstrating innovations in autonomous systems.

"While autonomous vehicles have been pushing the boundaries of what robots can do without any human guidance, the greatest impact robots can have is by being right by our side," said Alec D. Gallimore, the Robert J. Vlasic Dean of Engineering, the Richard F. and Eleanor A. Towner Professor, an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, and a professor of aerospace engineering.

"Robots can be designed with physical capabilities complementary to our own, and rather than replacing humans, the robots we envision can make existing jobs easier. They could increase productivity, improve worker safety and allow workers to spend more time on the creative and engaging parts of their jobs, while robots seamlessly support them by performing the tiring and repetitive parts."

As part of the second project, researchers from the three institutions plan to develop tools that enhance privacy and computational effectiveness in big-data analytics in precision health.

"When it comes to precision health, we have tremendous opportunities to advance scientific discovery and implementation with the right technical, clinical, regulatory and communication strategies," said Marschall S. Runge, executive vice president for medical affairs and dean of the U-M Medical School. "If we can increase multidisciplinary collaboration, we can bring cohesion and momentum to this new but fragmented field and establish a strong, stable foundation for future precision health discoveries."

In addition to collaborative research, the partnership has supported the exchange of 15 early-career researchers between U-M and either Technion or Weizmann.

About the partner institutions

Founded in 1912, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology is Israel's first university. Today, Technion is acclaimed as the source of ingenuity behind Israel's status as the world's "Startup Nation." Technion innovation has a high global impact in many areas, including life-saving medicine, sustainable energy, water conservation, computer science and nanotechnology.

The Weizmann Institute of Science is one of the world's leading multidisciplinary research institutions. Institute research efforts include searching for new ways to fight disease and hunger, examining important questions in mathematics and computer science, probing the physics of matter and the universe, creating novel materials and developing new strategies to protect the environment. ■

Politiclueless: Getting acclimated to D.C. through Machon Kaplan

By Rachel Levy

As passengers abandoned airplane mode, buzzes from CNN or *The New York Times* lit up their phones; updating them of what had or hadn't transpired domestically and abroad in the nearly five-hour flight between Arizona and DC.

I opened my phone to two Snapchats, a text from my mom, and a like on Instagram.

I knew that I was in trouble when I sat down with my internship supervisor, Erin, on the first day and she asked me — probably rhetorically — "So you're the public policy intern?" and I responded, completely seriously with; "Well, I'm actually the social justice intern." We both laughed, me nervously because I am not a public policy student and because she thought that I was being witty. As she continued with our orientation, listing off tasks, expectations, and goals I began to think to myself: what have I done?

In terms of politics, I had been mostly clueless. I could name my state senators and a few of the representatives; I knew who Ruth Bader Ginsburg is, but mostly because I had just seen the movie about her; and the issues that I cared about were usually the ones that my "woke" friends in College Democrats had heard about and relayed to me.

At least that's how I related to politics before participating in the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism's Machon Kaplan summer internship program. Machon Kaplan has given me the chance to live out politics. From organizing and social justice work on campus, I had learned to care about certain issues; but through Machon Kaplan, I have the chance to see those protests and petitions and calls for action actually change minds and uphold justice.

In Pirkei Avot, we learn that Rabbi Akiba, one of our greatest scholars, did not begin to learn Torah until he was 40 years old. However, as soon as his teacher taught him the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, he did not stop studying until he had learned it all.

I still don't recognize members of Congress when I walk down Constitution Avenue, and I didn't read the entirety of Breyer's dissent on the AMEX case. But I am young and I am interested and I am motivated, just like Rabbi Akiba was, to continue to learn about how I can make a difference and to not stop until I am satisfied.

This city is making me buzz – and not just from the CNN and *The New York Times* notifications that are now lighting up my iPhone screen. ■

Rachel Levy is a 2018 Machon Kaplan participant and a rising junior at the University of Michigan where she is studying Sociology of Health and Medicine and Judaic Studies. She was a member of NFTY Southwest in high school and is now the Reform Community Leader at U-M Hillel. This past year, she was a Hebrew Union College Founders Fellow and a JNet Engagement Fellow at U-M Hillel.

Machon Kaplan is an internship program for undergraduate students interested in Judaism and social justice. Based in Washington, D.C., it provides students with a meaningful social justice internship, the opportunity to engage in study related to their internships and and making change more broadly, as well as an open reflective community with whom to share their experience. Students learn, through study and action, the interrelationship of Judaism and American ideals, as well as how change happens.

Reprinted from the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism website, July 16, 2018.

Guitarist Charles Mokotoff at TBE

Trina Fuller, special to the WJN

Women of Temple Beth Emeth will host a concert by classical guitarist Charles Mokotoff on Saturday, December 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Mokotoff holds bachelors and masters degrees in guitar performance from Syracuse University and Ithaca College, respectively. He has served on the faculties of numerous colleges and universities in New York and the New England area as a lecturer in classical guitar and lute. He initiated and ran the Guitar Program at Northeastern University in Boston from 1982 to 1991. Prior to settling in the Washington, D.C. area, Mokotoff made his home in New England where he was widely recognized as an active guitarist and lutenist. During that period his career culminated with two Far East tours and a well-received New York City debut at Carnegie Hall in 1987. Solo and ensemble recitals over the past few seasons have centered around the Mid-Atlantic states, but include performances in Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, and two performances at the Lincoln Center Performing Arts Library in New York City. 2018-19 recitals will include performances in Maryland, Virginia, Washington, DC, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, Michigan and Maine

Classical Guitar Magazine (U.K.) has called his playing, "truly monumental" as well as "engaging and rhapsodic." ClassicalGuitarMusic.org has written that his playing shows

Charles Mokotoff

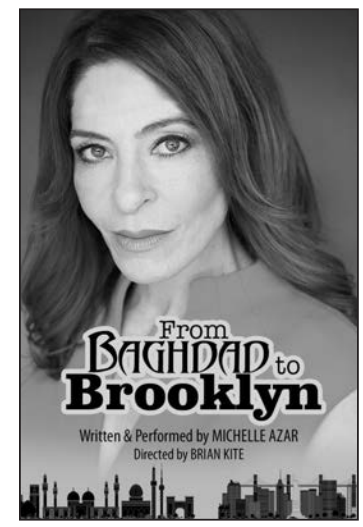
"a mix of strong tone, pianistic at times, but also capable of beautiful legato phrasing and a natural feel for forward movement." Earlier in his career, Mokotoff was described by the New York Times as "exceptional among debutantes... a thoughtful, gentlemanly artist, technically fastidious and able to coax a range of sounds from his instrument." Mokotoff, severely hard of hearing for a good deal of his life, is an outspoken proponent of making music with hearing loss.

A dessert reception will follow the performance. Tickets may be purchased online at www.wtbe.org and also at the night of the performance, 2018. Adult tickets are $20/ Students $15. Order now to reserve seating. ■

WTBE to present From Baghdad to Brooklyn

Carol Dworkin, special to the WJN

Film and stage actress, singer, yoga instructor, dancer, storyteller, Hebrew speaker, a rabbi's wife and mother. Yes, you could describe Michelle Azar as a woman of many talents and dimensions. From *Baghdad to Brooklyn*, written and performed by Azar, was a sell-out success on Broadway in September 2017. Azar's story enables her to weave a powerful story of a family whose very different worlds collide. Her solo performance attempts to understand her confusion and eventual embracing of the convergence of her Middle Eastern and East European ancestors' psyche and experiences. Her show grapples with these different worlds through stories, dance, and songs. Hebrew, Arabic and Yiddish lyrics are intertwined in her storytelling to inject authenticity and humor.



This November 15, Women of Temple Beth Emeth will bring the unique spirit of Michelle Azar to Temple Beth Emeth for her one-woman show beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. Accompaniment will be by TBE member and multi-faceted musician, Dave Gitterman. As a young singer and actor growing up with her three siblings in the suburb of Chicago and spending summers in Israel, Azar inherited two cultures from her parents: Sephardi from her father, who left Iraq for Israel as a teenager before immigrating to America; and Ashkenazi from her mother, who sang and performed on stage in her native Brooklyn, New York.

Her mother, Azar has said, "pushed me into the Lyric Opera of Chicago." The young Azar sang onstage with Placido Domingo and during summers sang Labor Zionist songs with her friends at Camp Tavor. She is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and holds a masters degree in Theater Therapy, also from NYU. Singing has continued to be a key focus in her life while being a mother of two young daughters and wife of Jonathan Aaron, senior rabbi of Temple Emanuel in Beverly Hills, and whose family is part of the Ann Arbor's TBE community.

"With an angelic voice, deep sentiment and humor," the *Los Angeles Times* has written, "Michelle tells a timely story of a family's love, dysfunction and redemption set against a unique, historical backdrop."

From Baghdad to Brooklyn performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. A dessert reception will follow the 60-minute performance. Tickets are available online at www.wtbe.org and also at the night of the performance. Adults are $20/Students $15. Order now to reserve seating. ■

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Plan now for November 15 rally for detained immigrant children

By Rabbi Josh Whinston

Bereshit, the Book of Genesis, is always reinvigorating for me. After closing our Torah reading cycle with Deuteronomy, we return to the birth of the world and beginnings of our people. The narratives that touch on the life of Abraham are always quite moving for me each year when we read them. From his call to leave his father's house to a land that God will show him, to his arguing with God about destroying the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. It tells you something about me that my favorite verse in all of the Torah is Genesis 18:25. At the beginning of their back and forth about the number of good people necessary to spare the cities, Abraham says to God, "Far be it from You to do such a thing, to bring death upon the innocent as well as the guilty, so that innocent and guilty fare alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" And it is truly the part of the verse that always fills me with pride for our tradition. Abraham is speaking to the greatest power in the entire Universe and has the audacity to say, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?"

As much as I love Abraham's willingness to stand up for justice, his interaction with God just a few verses prior is a glimpse into the character of the man who is the father of our tradition. In Genesis 18:1, Abraham is sitting at the entrance to his tent, speaking with God. We don't know about what they are speaking, but the rabbinic tradition has suggested that God was performing the mitzvah of *bikur cholim*, visiting the sick, since Abraham was recovering from his circumcision. In the midst of their conversation, Abraham sees three men approaching, and without even ending his conversation with God, Abraham jumps up and runs out to greet the visitors. Again, from the rabbinic tradition in the Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 127a, we find the assertion that "greeting the stranger is greater than welcoming the presence of God."

The two Abrahamic moments have informed our people for thousands of years and must continue to move us to action today. As has been reported in major news media outlets for weeks, there is currently a camp in Tornillo, Texas, housing more than 1,600 undocumented minors, most of whom crossed our southern boarder unaccompanied by an adult. Along with colleagues from across the country and organizations such as Faith In Action and Immigrant Families Together, we are planning a caravan to the site and a rally near the Tornillo tent camp. When there are nearly 2,000 children being held in a tent camp in the Texas desert, we are dealing with an emergency. I am sure the Jewish community would not stand for such treatment of Jewish kids, even if those kids were truly criminals. We are hoping our action in Tornillo will accomplish a few important changes. This camp must be shut down as quickly as possible; the welfare of children should always outweigh the immigration status of those involved. This camp

must have regular public oversight; it currently is lacking this important safeguard for child welfare. There must be accessible education for the children being held in the camp with certified teachers in the classrooms.

More information about this caravan and rally is forthcoming, but I hope that many members of the Ann Arbor Jewish community will join us on the caravan and that even more will fly to El Paso, to participate in a rally we are calling, "Let Our Children Go." Join us on November 15, 2018 and help ensure that our country continues to live up to the values our ancestor Abraham proclaimed through his actions thousands of years ago. Kids living in tents in the Texas desert must be where the rubber truly hits the road for the Jewish community. ■

JLI course addresses dissonance between religion and western values

Efrayim Mintz, special to the WJN

Rabbi Goldstein of Chabad House in Ann Arbor will offer Wrestling with Faith, a new six-session course by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI), that openly addresses common challenges people have in their relationship with God.

Beginning Wednesday, October 31, at 9:30 a.m., and 7:30 p.m., participants in the course will deal with issues that many struggle with, including beliefs in Judaism that seem primitive or outdated, reconciling scientific findings with ideas that cannot be proven in a lab, and the role of religion regarding gender roles, relationship choices, and other such controversial issues.

"We recognize that almost everyone has some degree of skepticism when it comes to religion," says Rabbi Rabbi Goldstein. "We've created this course for participants to think critically about these challenges—to approach them with an array of insightful perspectives—so we can articulate our beliefs to ourselves and to the next generation with clarity and conviction."

Wrestling with Faith explores questions such as: Why do I need God if I can live perfectly well without God? Does God really care about the nuances of Jewish practice? Doesn't the concept of "Jewish chosenness" seem racist? How can we relate to a loving and caring God amid the experience of tragedy and suffering? How do we reconcile compelling evidence for evolution and the age of the universe with a Bible that

continued on next page

Preparing for the redemption

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

On November 3, we will be reading the Torah portion of Chaya Sarah (Genesis 23:1). In it there is a verse that speaks about Abraham, after the passing of Sarah, in which he realizes that he has to find a wife for their son Isaac. The Torah prefaced that by saying, in 24:1, that Abraham became old and he came into his days. What does the Torah mean by "came into his days"? Our Sages and the Zohar tell us that Abraham used every day of his life to serve God to the extent that every day was a "complete" day filled with service to God. Not even one day of his life went to waste. This statement has to be understood.

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein

It is known that Abraham recognized God only after he turned three years old. This is also indicated from the Torah, later on in Genesis (26:5), where it is stated that God loved Abraham because he listened to Him. The Hebrew word for "because" is "*eikev*". If we take the Hebrew numerical value of the word *eikev*, it adds up to 172. This means that of the 175 years that Abraham lived, 172 were spent in total service to God. There were three years he did not serve God. So the rabbis pose the following question. How is it that Abraham is said to have spent ALL of his days in the service of God? Furthermore, there are other opinions brought in the Midrash that state that Abraham didn't recognize God until he was 40 or 48 years old. So then, the question is even greater: How is it possible to say that Abraham didn't miss even one day of his life not serving God?

According to the Lubavitcher Rebbe, this question can be asked not only about Abraham, but, about all of us. Until we are 12 or 13 years old we are not obligated to do the mitzvahs. So, if anything, we have 12 to 13 years in which we lack doing mitzvahs in the service of God. We are only practicing the mitzvahs, we are not responsible for them yet. According to "nature," it should be accepted that a child under 12 or 13 is not yet in a stage to take responsibility. So it turns out that we ALL are missing 12 or 13 years in our service to God. Does that mean it is impossible for any of us to have a "complete" life like our father Abraham?

Therefore, we have to conclude that the years we spend training and educating ourselves are not considered lost years without godly purpose. On the contrary, these are the years in which we prepare and make ourselves ready to do the mitzvahs when we become responsible on our bar or bat mitzvah. If anything, that's the whole purpose of all the training that we do — that we should be able to do a mitzvah. When the Torah tells us to do something we have to educate and train ourselves as to how to properly perform it. Therefore, we have to say that the preparation and the training is also a part of our service to God. We can't say that the first 12 or 13 years of a person's life are lost to their godly service. If anything, the reason why a person is not accountable for those years is because they are not yet mature enough for it.

This is how God built it into the system. The first 12 or 13 years of a person's life should be busy with training, education and practice for properly performing the mitzvahs. Then when we turn bar or bat mitzvah age, we begin to perform the mitzvahs with responsibility.

This will also give explanation to the question of Abraham. True, he came to recognize God only after he was three years old (or other ages according to different opinions). But since these were years spent searching for God, Rambam says that as soon as Abraham was able to think, he started to search. He searched until he was three (or older) and he discovered God. After this he concluded that there is only one God and this is what we call the God of Abraham that we believe in to this day. It turns out that all the years that Abraham spent searching for God was part of his Divine service.

On the one hand, we can't consider that he performed the mitzvahs during his time of searching. But on the other hand, he was spending his time searching for God. That is not considered a waste of time. If anything, that was the greatest thing he could have done at that time — being busy searching for God until he found God.

This is also a lesson for us in our times before the coming of the Moshiach. We are in exile and the purpose for the exile is not as a waste of our time or a meaningless existence. On the contrary, we should be using this time of exile to practice and prepare ourselves for the coming of the Moshiach — much like the pre-bat/bar mitzvah child does in preparation for their coming adult life. This is preparation for the completion that will take place when the Moshiach and the Redemption come. Only through our present-time efforts at education, practice and preparation can we reach the coming of the Moshiach speedily in our days. ■

What's the deal with musical instruments on Shabbat?

Rabbi Nadav Caine, special to the WJN

As a Conservative rabbi, I am frequently asked why it is that Conservative congregations around the country have been moving in the direction of allowing musical instruments on Shabbat. "Isn't that a Reform thing?" people ask. "Isn't it forbidden by Jewish law (*halakhah*)?"

Rabbi Nadav Caine

The *halakhic* history of the prohibition of musical instruments on Shabbat is fascinating. Biblically, there is no such prohibition: actually, it's the opposite. The Psalm for Shabbat clearly states that we should be celebrating Shabbat with instruments:

> *A psalm for the Sabbath day. It is good to give thanks to Adonai and to play music to your exalted name. To tell of your kindness in the morning and of your trustworthiness during the nights. On the ten-stringed harp and on the lyre, by the playing of the kinor. (Psalm 92:1-4)*

Stringed instruments, flutes, and trumpets were played by the Levites in the Temple on Shabbat. A Levite "band" accompanied worship.

Many people simply assume that musical instruments became prohibited on Shabbat following the destruction of Temple as a sign of mourning its loss. Strangely, no major legal source has ever based the prohibition on this principle. There is a brief mention in Talmud *Masekhet Gittin* (7a) of a single opinion that following the destruction of the Temple: all music should cease as an expression of permanent mourning of the Temple's loss. That opinion never became law, nor was it ever practiced, because it outlawed music at all times and places, especially weekdays. Not only would it have been impossible to implement; but, even if it had been tried, it would likely not have applied to Shabbat and holidays. Indeed, public expressions of mourning are forbidden on Shabbat and holidays, and especially any mourning the destruction of the Temple. This is why Tisha B'Av, the 9th of Av, is moved to the 10th of Av if the 9th falls on Shabbat.

The prohibition's actual *halakhic* source is a one-line mention in Mishnah *Beitzah* (5:2) that "one may not smack or dance or clap on Shabbat and *Yom Tov*." It has nothing to do with musical instruments and certainly nothing to do with worship. The context and meaning of the prohibition is that Shabbat and *Yom Tov* are times of rest and peace. One may not "disturb the peace" of others on Shabbat. Thus, the Talmud adds prohibitions on knocking loudly on people's doors and allowing one's millstone to make noise on Shabbat. Put in modern parlance, the neighbor's band that practices loudly in the garage next door has a right to practice on Thursday at 4 p.m., but not late at night when you're trying to sleep, nor on Shabbat when you're home and enjoying Shabbat shalom. (And people shouldn't make noise in the street either.)

The Talmud and Rashi, however, add an unrelated interpretation: musical instruments should be avoided because there may be a temptation to fix one. It is true: one may not replace a broken string, say, on a lyre. Still, many instruments are incapable of "fixing" on Shabbat (like the flutes and trumpets in the Temple), and "temptation to fix" does not apply to anything else in our lives, or it would prevent us from touching all sorts of objects on Shabbat! The Talmudic commentators called Tosafot say this strange "instrument fixing" issue must have only applied in some previous time period to some long-lost practice. Since then, several Jewish legal codes codified that musical instruments are forbidden on Shabbat and holidays due to the dual risks of "excessive noise" and of "temptation to fix" while others allowed musical instruments in principal.

In Conservative *halakhic* reasoning, we generally follow long-standing custom, and the most prevalent custom is *a cappella* Shabbat. Nevertheless, when there is a well-founded proposal to examine a custom, we carefully distinguish between custom (*minhag*) and law (*halakhah*). In the case of musical instruments on Shabbat, the *halakhah* is not about services at all, but about noise that disturbs the peace and a dubious concern about fixing. The challenge to the prohibition comes with the Biblical source that celebrating Shabbat with instruments is appropriate, if not mandated. This creates a dynamic space for a new conversation about the potential role of instruments on Shabbat and holidays. ■

JLI Course, continued from previous page

tells a different story? And: Is it even possible to develop a relationship with a God I cannot perceive with my five senses?

"People often deal with such issues by going on the defense," explained Rabbi Zalman Abraham of JLI's Brooklyn, New York headquarters. "In this course we stay away from that. Instead, we embrace the challenges wholeheartedly and seek a broader context through which to understand the issues."

Jennifer Wiseman, a senior astrophysicist at NASA and the director of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion, commented about the course: "At a time when science and technology dominate the mechanics and framing of our modern lives, it is more important than ever to ask the bigger questions of life's purpose and values. This course enables the seeker to embrace the achievements of modern science while seeking the higher gifts of wisdom, meaning, and a personal relationship with God."

Like all JLI programs, this course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may call (734) 995-3276, x2, or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and for other course-related information. ■

"Gratitude is when memory is stored in the heart and not in the mind."

—LIONEL HAMPTON, AMERICAN BANDLEADER

JFS Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County would like to express gratitude to our community for a successful year of **creating solutions**, **promoting dignity**, and **inspiring humanity**.

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Immigrants and Refugees: *Today, Yesterday, and Tomorrow.*

featuring ***Deborah Dash Moore, Ph.D.***

FREDERICK G. L. HUETWELL PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND JUDAIC STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

SUNDAY

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ABOUT THE TALK:

The United States has a checkered history of alternatively welcoming and rejecting immigrants and refugees. Jews have stood on both sides of the metaphorical American fence as natives and strangers, as immigrants (legal and illegal) and refugees. How have Jews responded to crises in the past? How does examining that past help us understand what is happening today?

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Beth Israel Congregation's November activities

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

ASG (Adult Social Group) Democracy Potluck

Thursday, November 1, 6 p.m.

With the beginning of the election month, Beth Israel's Adult Social Group celebrates democracy with a potluck dinner, fun trivia and games themed for the occasion. Participants are asked to bring a dairy vegetarian dish. One's patriotic spirit may be expressed by wearing red, white, and blue to the event. RSVP to Sarah Klein at sklein@bethisrael-aa.org.

An Experimental "Family Service"

November 2, 5:30 p.m.

While the High Holidays and special days that follow are a season of deep reflection and joyous celebration, each and every Shabbat provides opportunities for both as well. On this Shabbat, Beth Israel offers a family-themed service. From 5:45-6:30 p.m., accompanied by camp-style guitar and singing, participants – both adults and children — will gather around a gigantic Shabbat table filled with candles, *tzedakah* boxes, and *challot*, and bless each other, sing the Shabbat prayers, and listen to a brief teaching about the meaning of family. Then the Kiddush will be sung and everyone will enjoy a family-friendly dinner. Adults without children are of course, welcome to participate with the rest of the community - all of the participants will be connected together through the prayers and rituals of the evening. Please call the Beth Israel office at (734) 665-9897 to RSVP.

Midrash in Hebrew

Tuesdays, November 5, 12, 19 and 26, and December 3, 3:30 –4:45 p.m.

During the month of November and part of December, Rabbi Dobrusin will offer a five-session class studying Midrash using the Hebrew text. While the focus is on the original Hebrew, English translations will be available and the discussion will be in English. The subject of the class will be *midrashim* written on the story of the rebellion of Korach told in the book of Numbers. Through the commentaries, the rabbis sought to understand the motivation behind the rebellion and to evaluate the response of Moses. There is no charge for this series.

Shabbat Limmud

Saturday, November 10, 9 a.m.

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin facilitates a lively discussion on *Parashat Hashavua*, the Torah portion of the week. All are welcome to participate in an informal conversation on the Torah portion over coffee and cake preceding the Shabbat morning service.

Children's Mini Minyan

Saturday, November 10 and 24, at 11:15 a.m.

Every second and fourth Shabbat of the month, at 11:15 a.m., Beth Israel offers a service for elementary school age children. The service includes Shabbat prayers and fun educational activities. The children join the main congregation for the final prayers in the sanctuary. Mini Minyan is led by Program Director Sarah Klein. Contact Sarah at sklein@bethisrael-aa.org for more information.

Tot Shabbat

Saturdays, November 10 and 24, 11:15 a.m.

Tot Shabbat is a Saturday morning program/service for parents and their children 2–5 years old which includes songs, stories, and prayers. It includes songs, the mysterious "Shabbat Box" a Torah procession with stuffed Torah toys, and a Kiddush for tots. There is no charge and no RSVP needed for this program.

Friendsgiving

Friday, November 23, 7 p.m.

Join the Adult Social Group in celebrating Thanksgiving as a community on Friday instead of Thursday, when people are typically with their families. There will be a potluck dinner in the Garfunkel Activities Center (2010 Washtenaw Ave.) after Shabbat services which start at 6 p.m. The theme is an Eco-friendly dairy potluck, with compostable/ recyclable utensils and plates. Contact Sarah at sklein@bethisrael-aa.org with any questions. ■

November and early December at the Jewish Cultural Society

Barb Banet, special to the WJN

First Friday Shabbat with Judy Seid and "Your Oldest Jewish Thing"

November 2, 6:30–9 p.m. at the JCC

All are invited to join the JCS at a special Shabbat. Former JCS leader, Rabbi Judith Seid, will lead an event called "The Oldest Jewish Thing." After welcoming Shabbat with secular readings, songs, candle lighting, wine, and challah, participants will eat a catered dinner from a local restaurant. Following dinner, participants who brought "the oldest Jewish thing" from their home will describe the object. Rabbi Seid will add cultural and historical context to the discussion. Dinner is free for JCS members. The cost of dinner for non-members is $10/person or $25/family. Children are welcome.. Register online at www.jewishculturalsociety.org/observances/shabbat. Those who prefer to come after dinner, may come at 7:45 p.m.

God-Optional Judaism – a presentation by Judy Seid

Sunday, November 4, 10 a.m.-noon

Rabbi Judith Seid, former leader of the Jewish Cultural Society, will talk about her revised book, God-Optional Judaism: Alternatives for Cultural Jews Who Love Their History, Heritage and Community. The event will be held at the JCC, 10:00-noon, as part of the JCC Jewish Book Festival. God-Optional Judaism is a handbook for Jews looking for creative and meaningful new ways to express their own way of being Jewish. It is geared towards those who express their Jewishness through a sense of community, a love of nature, a commitment to social justice, a celebration of Jewish history and culture and an ongoing evolution of Jewish identity, rather than through prayers and God-centered rituals. The book provides alternative, nontheistic ways to celebrate Jewish holidays and rites of passage. It includes a chapter on the historical diversity of the Jewish people, and answers questions about the Secular Humanistic Jewish movement.

Chanukah Celebration

Sunday, December 2, 10:30 a.m.–noon

Celebrate Chanukah with the Jewish Cultural Society. All are invited to join the Sunday School Chanukah activities at the JCC, including latkes, dreidels, and a Chanukah bazaar. Please register by emailing info@jewishculturalsociety.com. ■

This month at Temple Beth Emeth

Nellie Stansbury, special to the WJN

Judaism 101: Adult Education Class, led by Rabbi Whinston

Mondays, November 5, 12, 19 and 26, 1 p.m., TBE's Adult Lounge and
Thursdays, November 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 7 p.m., TBE's Adult Lounge

A series of classes for those interested in learning more about Judaism. Judaism 101 examines the "hows and whys" of being Jewish. It is designed to give its students an appreciation and basic knowledge of some of the fundamentals of Judaism by learning about the history, theology, and practices of Judaism. Led by Rabbi Whinston. Two weekly classes offer opportunities for those working traditional hours and will cover the same materials each week.

Delving into the prayer book:

An Exploration of the Structure, Meaning and Practices of the Jewish Worship Service
Sundays, November 4, 11, 18 and 25, 3:30 p.m., TBE's Adult Lounge

Join Cantor Hayut to learn about the Jewish Worship service using music and the recitation of the prayers. Because the congregation uses *Mishkan Tefillah*, the transliterated Prayer Book, knowledge of and/or the ability to read Hebrew is an asset but is not essential. Contact Cantor Hayut, cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org, with questions.

Families with Young Children (FYC): Tot Shabbat Service

Fridays, November 2, 9, 16 and 30, 5:45 p.m., TBE Sanctuary
5:45 p.m., Tot (0–5 year olds) Shabbat Services with Rabbi Whinston and Cantor Hayut
6:15 p.m. Dinner for Tot Shabbat. 6:45 p.m. Shira Service

All of your favorite songs led by TBE's tot team, Cantor Hayut and Rabbi Whinston.

Join in for macaroni and cheese, fish sticks, applesauce, and a salad bar immediately following the short service. Dinner is just $5 per person. Buy a punch card ahead of time for a discounted price. Punch cards are available in the TBE office.

Weekly Lunch and Learn

Fridays, November 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, TBE Adult Lounge, Noon

Rabbi Whinston meets on Fridays for an informal discussion about religion. Sessions are open to the entire community. Feel free to bring your lunch.

Women of TBE: Historical novel reading group

Monday, November 12, 12:30 p.m., TBE Library

The WTBE Reading Group meets on the second Monday of each month, October through June. Contact Molly Lindner, burnham@umich.edu.

Women's Torah Study

Mondays, November 12 and 26, 7 p.m.

An in-depth study and lively discussion of the week's Torah portion led by Cantor Regina Hayut. The group will explore various passages from the portion looking at several translations and commentaries from a variety of scholars from Talmudic times to the modern day. No Hebrew knowledge necessary to participate in the discussion. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org.

Torah Study

Saturdays, November 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 8:50 a.m.

Join in for this weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston.

Families with Young(ish) Children: monthly playground Meet-Up

Sunday, November 25, 10 a.m., Rotating Parks in Ann Arbor

TBE wants to find more ways to connect socially. Join in for a meet-up. These events are for children 0–10 years old. Questions? Contact Beth Pearson, bethlpearson@gmail.com.

Shalom Gever/Jewish Karate

Fridays, November 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 4 p.m.

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Susan Ayer
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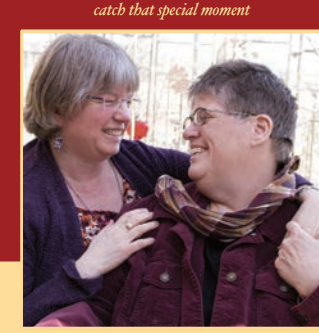

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TBE, continued from page 11

bullying self-defense. 12-week semesters for belt advancement. Drop-in when schedules permit. Enrollment is open for students and adults. Shalom Gever is taught by Rabbi Peter Gluck, 5th Degree Black Belt and martial arts instructor for 21 years. Contact the Temple Beth Emeth office at (734) 665-4744 or Rabbi Gluck, info@shalomgever.org, for more registration information.

WTBE Fiber Arts Group

Mondays, November 5 and 19, 7–9 p.m., TBE Adult Lounge

Anyone interested in Fiber Arts: knitting, crocheting, and crafts are welcome. Meet new people and have fun with the Women of TBE! This group will be contributing to the Israeli Peace quilt. (All materials for the project are provided by WTBE.) Contact Martha Weintraub, weintraub.martha@gmail.com.

Social Action Committee: Community Conversation

Saturdays, November 3, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., TBE Adult Lounge

Join Temple Beth Emeth's Social Action Committee for a conversation about ongoing issues in the Ann Arbor community and beyond. To learn more, contact Abbie Egherman, at ajegherman@gmail.com.

TBE sponsors Irene Butter in Conversation with Ken Fischer

Sunday, November 4, 4 p.m., Jewish Community Center

As part of the 2018 Jewish Book and Arts Festival, join in for a conversation about *Shores Beyond Shores: From Holocaust to Hope: My True Story*, a memoir by Irene Hasenberg Butter, co-authored by Josh Bidwell and Kris Koloway.

The Women of TBE host Michelle Azar

Thursday, November 15, 7:30 p.m., TBE's Social Hall

Join the Women of TBE for *From Baghdad to Brooklyn*, written and performed by Michelle Azar, a sell-out success on Broadway in September 2017. Accompaniment will be by TBE member and multi-faceted musician, Dave Gitterman. Visit the WTBE website, www.wtbe.org, to reserve seats and for more information.

Erev Thanksgiving Interfaith Service

Tuesday, November 20, 7 p.m., TBE Sanctuary

Since the beginning of the TBE-St. Clare's partnership, the congregation has celebrated Erev Thanksgiving with song and celebration. The two choirs prepare beautiful pieces both old and new to sing, and the clergy provide words of hope and gratitude. The two groups come together as a community to collect contributions to support their own Back Door Food Pantry and Food Gatherers.

Guitar-led Shabbat Service

Friday, November 23, 6:30–8:30 p.m., TBE Sanctuary

A special, song-filled, musical celebration with singing, dancing, guitar, and a big dose of *ruach*. The celebration provides another gateway to prayer. This service takes the place of Shabbat Achat and falls on the fourth Friday of each month. ■

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Finding our place on the line

By Sara Goldshlack

On Wednesday, September 26, Hebrew Day School joined over 4 million people from around the world to celebrate Character Day, or, as it is called at HDS — Mensch Day. HDS uses Mensch Day as an opportunity for students and teachers to reflect on the character traits they wish to possess and develop in order to be the best people they can be. Students began the celebration by watching parts of a short film called *The Making of a Mensch*. The film ends by asking such thought-provoking questions as: "What qualities do I want to work on?" and "What kind of person do I want to be?" This provided the foundation for discussions and activities relating to personal character that students will revisit over the course of the year.

The bedrocks of the "mensch curriculum" are the concepts of inclusion, kindness, and respect, but it an evolving thing. This year, the focus is neurodiversity with emphasis on physical differences, social differences, and learning differences. Students will be engaging in activities designed to promote their understanding of themselves and others, and will be encouraged to accept, respect, and celebrate the variability that makes each of us different from one another. Teachers will reinforce three themes throughout the year:

• Everyone's brain and body work differently.

• Everyone has strengths and challenges, even if you can't see them.

• We are all unique and special and created *b'tzelem Elohim* (in G-d's image).

With these three themes in mind, Head of School Jen Rosenberg, School Psychologist Beth Pearson, and myself, used last month's Mensch Day assembly to introduce students to the concept of a spectrum. Using color spectrum as a visual example, they demonstrated for students that there is no stark dividing line between two colors, rather there is a gradual shift of hues and tones as one color melts and morphs into another. Students were then invited to answer questions that called for them to identify their own place on a spectrum between extremes. The first spectrum was a social one: "When playing at recess," teachers asked, "do you prefer to play alone, with just one friend, or with a large group?" Using a line on the floor as a make shift spectrum, students gave the question some thought and then positioned themselves on this line where they felt they belonged. Some students noted, quite accurately, that many factors contribute to where an individual falls on the spectrum and that we may find ourselves on different parts of the spectrum on different days or in different situations. It was exciting to hear the students discuss the questions, and it was especially interesting to observe how they perceived themselves. Students realized that, in many circumstances, things are not necessarily one straightforward way or another, but are, rather, somewhere along a continuum (or spectrum). The concept of a spectrum provided students with a framework for thinking about strength and challenge, about similarity and difference, and about the many shades of the human experience.

HDS's study of neurodiversity will spread across the entire school year. It will include presentations from a variety of speakers who will visit HDS to discuss their own experiences, capacities, and challenges. And it will include activities that help students to better understand and appreciate the experience of people who learn differently from them.

The study of neurodiversity at HDS is supported by the Jeff Farber Family Foundation and the David and Nanci Farber Family Foundation, whose generosity has helped (and will continue to help) make these experiences possible for HDS students. ■

Sara Goldshlack is Resource Specialist at HDS.

Former gubernatorial candidate talks to students about politics

Jessica Primus and Livnat Brody, HDS Student Reporters, special to the WJN

On Wednesday, October 10, former gubernatorial candidate Dr. Abdul El-Sayed came to the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor to talk with the third, fourth, and fifth graders about the idea of inclusion and about his experience running for governor in the 2018 Michigan Democratic primary.

One of the former candidate's biggest messages was that our country needs to decide who we include in "We the People" — referring to the Preamble of the United States Constitution. Dr. El-Sayed told the students that he thought "We the People" should include as many people as possible so that all people can have a "voice in a democracy."

"Inclusion is about trying to get everyone together," Dr. El-Sayed told the students, adding that if people get marginalized and they are not included, they are less likely to vote or get a prominent voice in our politics. He noted that it's normal to have some disagreement, but it's a problem when we don't agree on who should be included in decision-making in the first place.

"What we have to fight for," he said, "is to make sure everyone gets an equal voice in our democracy."

Two of the biggest barriers he sees in creating an inclusive democracy are gerrymandering and the large amount of money it takes to run for office.

HDS students had a lot of questions. One student wanted to hear about the hardest part of running for governor. "Dealing with mean people can be really hard," he responded, noting that most people have to deal with the occasional mean person, but in politics, people can get really mean. "I had to learn how to not react," he said, "and keep focusing on what matters. Sometimes you have to pick between your values and your success. I'm glad I picked my values.

He said that his favorite moment in running for governor was when he was backstage at one of his rallies, and former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders was on stage. He thought for a moment, "This is really cool, I'm backstage at a Bernie rally," then realizing, "Wait, wait, no, Bernie's on stage at an Abdul rally."

Another favorite part of Dr. El-Sayed's experience was meeting young people who were told that they couldn't be a part of politics because of how they prayed or how they looked, and he would tell them that they can. He related this to how he felt when Barack Obama was elected president in 2008.

He also spoke about his experience as a Muslim and an Egyptian-American traveling all over the state of Michigan meeting people — some of whom had never met someone like him before. He reflected, "There's a lot more that unifies people than separates them."

"What sports did you play?" another student wanted to know. Dr. El-Sayed replied that he participated in lacrosse, wrestling, and football. Dr. El-Sayed explained that sports was one of the few things that he loved doing that wouldn't get him in trouble in high school. Sports were an important chapter of his life.

Another student asked Dr. El-Sayed who his role models are. He replied that his grandmother, his parents, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Barack Obama, and Nelson Mandela are among his role models.

As an undergraduate, Dr. El-Sayed attended the University of Michigan. He delivered the student commencement speech of 2007 in front of Bill Clinton. Later, in 2009, Dr. El-Sayed was awarded the Rhodes Scholarship as a second-year medical student. He attended the University of Oxford and was in Oriel College. He completed his medical degree at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 2014. ■

The authors of this article, Jessica and Livnat, are fifth grade students at the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor and are the editor and lead copy editor (respectively) at the student-run newspaper, The HDS Press. You can view the latest issue at hdsaa.org/thehdspress and paper copies are available at the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor. For more information, contact newspaper@hdsaa.org.

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Exploring the golem narrative

Lois Godel, staff writer

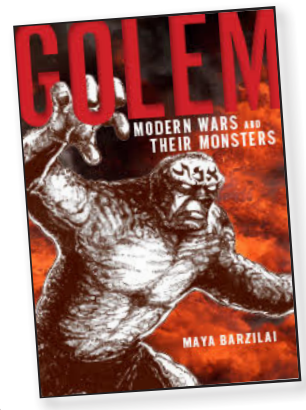
Golem: Modern Wars and Their Monsters, by Dr. Maya Barzilai, University of Michigan assistant professor of Modern Jewish Literature and Jewish Culture, explores the changing metaphor of the golem and the golem narrative from the late 17th century to contemporary times, and from Europe to the United States and Israel.

While numerous versions of the golem exist in both Jewish and non-Jewish literature, film and theatre, as well as in popular stories and even in comic books, Barzilai's book focuses on the portrayal of the golem as a "figure of war-related violence." The golem symbolizes the monstrosity of war.

Most of the later-evolving golem narratives retain some connection back to Poland, where the Jewish people were persecuted and in dire need of protection from pogroms or expulsion, or both. The golem, a man-made monster of clay, is endowed with super-human strength and limited intelligence. The golem does not think for itself but is directed by others. Its primary roles are of protector and destroyer. Its extraordinary brute strength and its propensity to act without reason may be seen as a transformational fantasy of Jewish masculinity, from intellectually-orientated into fierce protector and fighter.

While references to the golem are found in Psalms and in ancient Jewish texts, the golem story that became widely known in both Jewish and in non-Jewish communities originated in Prague, in the late 16th century. A golem was said to be created by Rabbi Judah Loew, the Maharal (Our Teacher) of Prague, for the purpose of protecting the Jewish people. In this

Dr. Maya Barzilai



and in other early golem stories, a rabbi places a writing, containing the name of God, inside the golem's mouth, thus magically activating the clay. But the problem is that the golem is inherently flawed. Its drive to destroy eclipses its drive to protect, and before long, it veers out of the control of its maker. It murders indiscriminately and is likely to kill the person who attempts to de-activate it.

Immediately after World War I, the golem became a metaphor for the monstrosity of war. In the trenches of World War I, the soldiers were often covered in mud. The German actor, filmmaker and World War I veteran, Paul Wegener, made the direct connection between the clay golem and the mud-covered soldier (and also to the brain-injured veteran soldier). The golem is generally portrayed as good-natured. It doesn't think for itself. It follows orders, like all foot soldiers are supposed to, except when something goes wrong and it runs amok.

During and after World War II and the Holocaust, the golem became a vehicle for fantasies of revenge and retribution against the Nazis. As early as 1938, in the United States, a golem precursor to Superman was drawn, although the comic book editors soon moved away from promoting any Jewish connection, choosing to depict Superman as an idealized white male Protestant.

The creation of the State of Israel spawned a number of variations of the golem metaphor. In the earlier version, Moshe Sharet, in a speech designed to incite the newly created Israeli Defense Army, depicted the Arab States, with the collusion of Great Britain, as a golem bent on destroying the Jewish people.

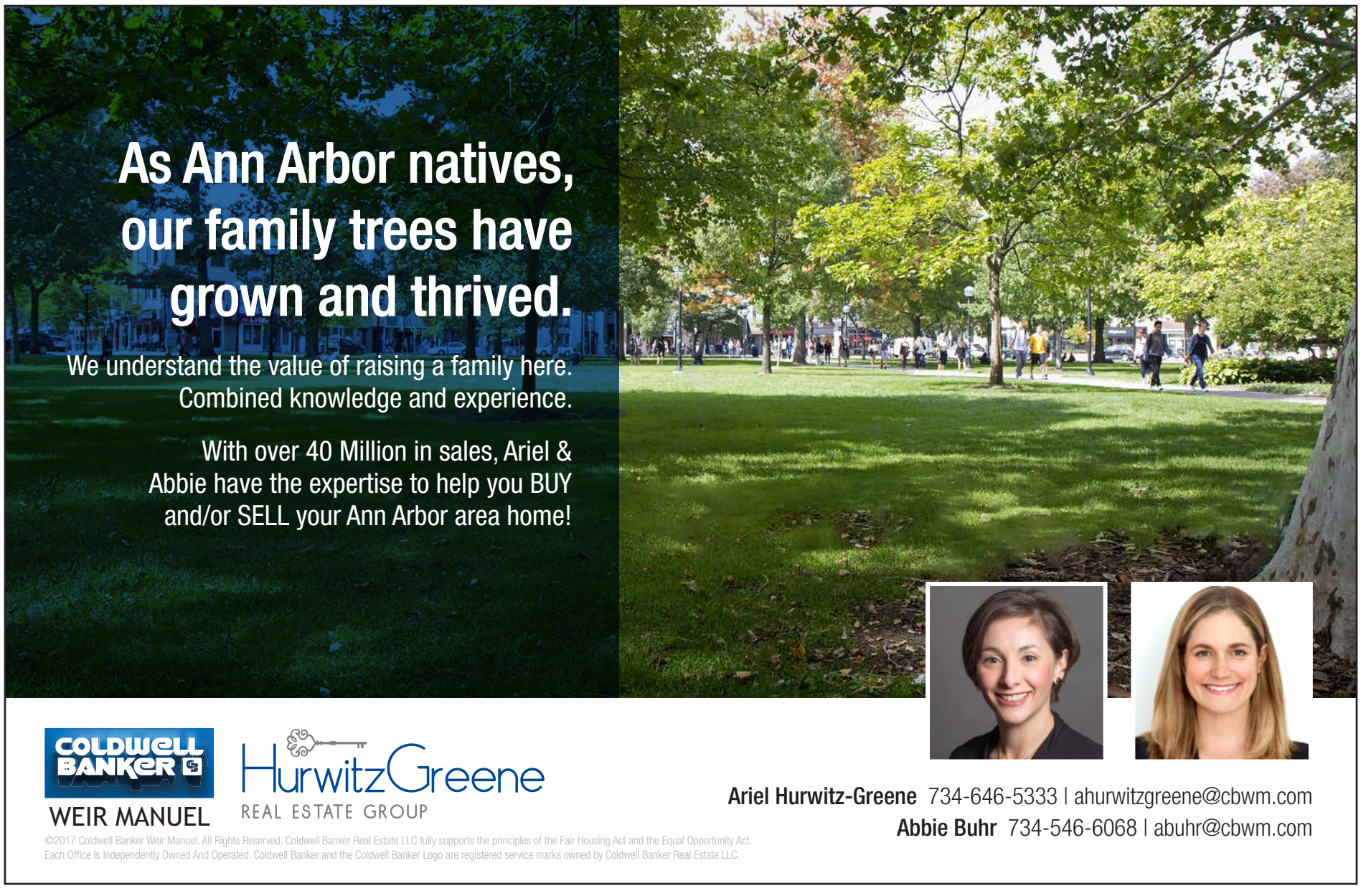
Other Israeli writers used the golem in the process of self-reflection. The Israeli author S.Y. Agnon, similarly to Paul Wegener, applied the golem metaphor to that of the war-damaged soldier, regardless of whether he was an Arab or a Jew. "This unmovable, machine-like veteran is not a potential war hero but a survivor that has shed his human demeanor." Also, "The enemy becomes internalized, in this literature, and the golem represents the inability to distinguish fully between self and other, ally and enemy."

Moving into the 21st century, we find that the golem metaphor has evolved beyond an individual soldier, to include computers, drones and other artificially created instruments of war. The book invites the reader to reflect on ourselves as well as on our greater society. Who or what are our golems?

"The golem metaphor serves to remind us that even though our wars are being fought from afar by automatic machines of different kinds, they still have devastating effects on the human body and psyche. Well into the twenty-first century, golem narratives continue to provide resonant material for scrutinizing the conditions and activities by which we define our humanity."

Golem: Modern Wars and Their Monsters, is a well-researched, scholarly work; not something to plow through quickly. Well-written and thought-provoking, this book would be of special significance to those with an interest in political science and conflict resolution as well as to those interested in symbolism and folklore, in both American and Jewish culture and literature ■

Dr. Barzalai's will be speaking about her book at the Jewish Book & Arts Festival on Thursday, November 8, at 7 pm.



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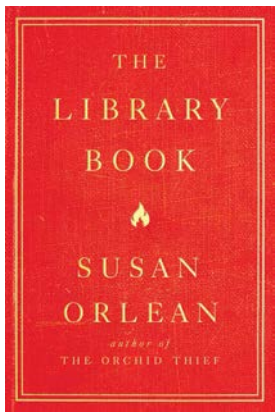

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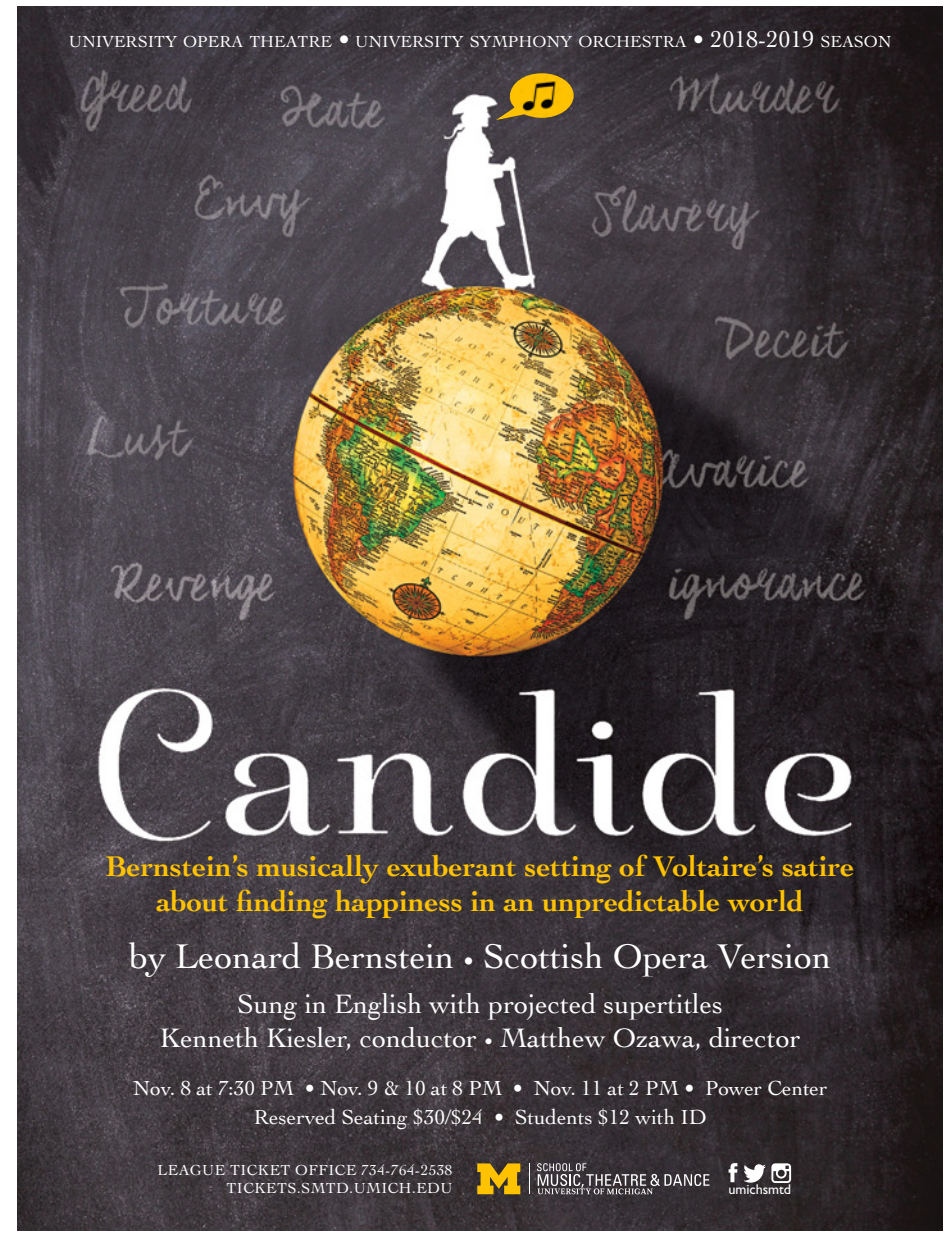
On the morning of April 29, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. The fire was disastrous, consuming 400,000 books and damaging 700,000 more. With her signature wit, insight, compassion, and talent for deep research, Susan Orlean investigates the still unsolved Los Angeles Public Library fire to showcase the larger, crucial role that libraries play in our lives. *This event is in partnership with Literati Bookstore. It includes a signing and books will be for sale.*

YUNG SHING LE
SHADOW PUPPET THEATRE TROUPE OF TAIWAN

MONDAY, NOV. 12 • 7-8:00PM • DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

Yung Shing Le invites you to experience Taiwanese shadow puppetry with performances of three different shadow plays: *The Sandbag Trilogy*, *The Mountain of Flames* (an excerpt from *Journey to the West*) and a segment adopted from legendary Japanese folk tale *Momotaro* (*Peach Boy*). *This event is in partnership with Michigan Taiwanese American Organization, Ann Arbor Chinese Center of Michigan, and the Taipei Cultural Center in New York.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT AADL.ORG



JEAN & SAMUEL FRANKEL CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

FRANKEL EVENTS
November 2018

GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II
Lisa Ades, Filmmaker
November 6, 5:30 pm
University of Michigan Museum of Art Auditorium, 525 S. State St.

The Past as a Foreign Country: Remembering Spain in Ottoman Lands
Julia Phillips Cohen, Vanderbilt University
November 8, 1 pm
Room 2022, 202 S. Thayer St.

The Yellow Ticket
Film and Musical Performance
November 12, 7 pm
The Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St.

The Bizarre Tales of Yiddishland: What the Yiddish Press Reveals about the Jews
Eddy Portnoy, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
November 13, 4:00 pm
Room 2022, 202 S. Thayer St.

All events are free and open to the public. If you have a disability that requires a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Frankel Center office.

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Let's spice up our lives

Lonnie Sussman, food editor

Last month I wrote about smells and their evocative powers of memory, history and tradition. Still, I keep thinking about spices and herbs and their roles in food memories as well as tastes. As a descendent of Ashkenazi Jews, Lithuanians, Poles and Russians, the main spices and herbs were salt, pepper, paprika, garlic, onions and dill. Early in my cooking life it never occurred to me that there were other flavors.

Still, even a cursory knowledge of Jewish history makes us aware of 2000 years of living all over the world. Living among other cultures and agricultural and food traditions naturally led the Jews to use what was available while keeping the laws of kashrut. So, the Jews of Iran, Iraq, Egypt and other countries of the Near East gave us foods using cardamom, cinnamon, rose water, and turmeric, among many other spices. The same was true for Jews everywhere else in the world but these countries in particular interest me.

What is the difference between herbs and spices? We sometimes use the terms interchangeably, but they are different. Herbs come from the green and leafy parts of a plant and the spices are other parts of the plant. They can include the root, stem, bulb, bark, or seeds. We may be the most familiar with herbs like dill, sage, oregano and thyme but it is the more exotic spice blends closely associated with foods of the Near East and North Africa that I'd like to focus on.

Iraqi Jews used the spices and spice blends available in the region and their foods and recipes heavily influenced the food of Israel as so many Israeli families originated in Iraq. They have since spread all over the world and we get to enjoy the flavors even without traveling.

The essential spice blend from this region is Baharat. It is an Arabic word that is a generic term for "spice." According to Joan Nathan in her most recent cookbook, *King Solomon's Table*, Baharat is a blend of 7 spices. I have bought it at the Arab market on Packard but here is one recipe for making your own. ■

Baharat

½ teaspoon each of sweet paprika, hot paprika or cayenne pepper, ground black pepper, nutmeg and cinnamon
¼ teaspoon each of allspice and ground coriander
1 teaspoon each of salt, ground cumin and turmeric

Stir all ingredients together and store in an airtight container at room temperature. This will store for up to 6 months.

Chicken with Baharat

This recipe comes from Levana Aronson whose family was originally from Iraq. She says Baharat is a staple in Iraqi cooking for rice, meat, kubbah and chicken. This recipe will serve about 4 people.

1-½ to 2 pounds of boneless chicken thighs
2 Tablespoons olive oil
2 Tablespoons baharat

Marinate the chicken, oil and barahat for at least one hour. Grill or bake at 400°. Serve over rice.

There are many rice dish recipes using this spice blend. Here is a delicious version of a rice and lentils dish that takes some planning and time. You can always double the amount of caramelized onions. Extras can be frozen for a few months. Stir them into some hummus and tachina.

Majadara with Baharat

Parev, serves 6–8

Rice and caramelized onions

2 cups basmati rice
pinch of kosher salt and pinch of black pepper
1 Tablespoon olive oil
¼ cup caramelized onions (the secret to a delicious mujadara)
1 Tablespoon Baharat
¼ cup olive oil
6 large onions, halved and sliced.
A couple of pinches of salt

Heat the oil and add the onions and salt. Cook over low heat, stirring once in a while. This will take about 3 hours of patient waiting.

Cover the rice with water in a bowl with the pinch of salt and let soak for an hour. Then drain. Preheat oven to 350°. While it is heating, warm the oil in a large, ovenproof pot with a tight-fitting cover. Add the caramelized onions, Baharat, pepper and a pinch of salt and stir to combine. Add the rice and stir to evenly coat the rice and it begins to toast, about 3 minutes.

Add two cups water, raise the heat to high and bring to a simmer. Stir with a fork once or twice, add 1-1/2 teaspoons salt, cover and bake in the oven for about 20 minutes. Let stand without the cover for another 20 minutes and then fluff the rice.

Lentils

1 cinammon stick
1 inch piece of fresh ginger
1 head of garlic, halved crosswise
½ onion, unpeeled
½ bunch cilantro (or parsley), pick off the leaves and reserve the stems.
1 cup beluga lentils, or plain brown lentils

Combine the cinnamon stick, ginger, garlic, onion, cilantro stems (or parsley) and lentils in a pot.

Cover with about 4 cups of water, bring to a boil. Then lower the heat to a simmer and cook until the lentils are tender, about 20-30 minutes. Drain the excess water and discard the cinnamon, ginger, garlic, onion and stems.

Gently spoon the lentils over the rice and fold to combine. Finish with the cilantro or parsley leaves.

From Michael Solomonov's Zahav

Harissa is a spice blend from North African that tries to burn the taste buds out of your mouth. Just kidding, sort of. Yes, you can buy it in specialty markets or you can make your own. Here is one version:

Harissa

makes about 1 cup

1 ounce of fresh hot red chili peppers or cayenne peppers
½ cup olive oil
7–8 cloves of garlic
½ teaspoon cumin
½ teaspoon ground coriander
1 teaspoon salt.

Cut the stems from the peppers, remove half the seeds or more if you want to cut the heat a bit. Soak the peppers in warm water until soft, then drain and squeeze out the excess water. Pulse in a food processor along with ¼ cup of the olive oil and all the other ingredients. The consistency should be that of a thick paste and the color should be bright red. Place in a jar, pour the rest of the olive oil on top, cover and refrigerate. Let it sit a few days before using. Use with care.

Tunisian carrot salad with cumin, coriander and caraway

parve, 6-8 servings

2 pounds of peeled carrots, cut into rounds
1 tsp salt
3 Tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon ground caraway
1 teaspoon ground coriander
Pepper to taste
Juice of 1 lemon
1 teaspoon harissa

Bring a pot of water to boil, add the salt and the carrots and cook just until they are soft enough to pierce with a fork but not mushy. Put them immediately into an ice bath to stop further cooking.

Plate on a flat serving dish and sprinkle with olive oil, the spices, salt, pepper and lemon juice.

Just before serving use your fingers to add about a teaspoon of harissa and dab all over the salad.

Don't forget to wash your hands.

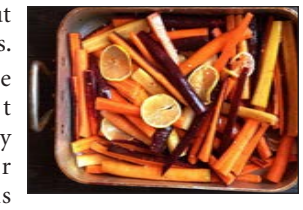
from Joan Nathan's King Solomon's Table

Harissa and maple roasted carrots

serves 4–6

2 garlic cloves, finely grated
¼ cup olive oil
¼ cup maple syrup. (or use agave or honey)
1 Tablespoon harissa paste
2 teaspoons cumin seeds
2-½ pounds rainbow carrots, halved
1 lemon, thinly sliced and seeded

Whisk the garlic, olive oil, maple syrup, harissa paste and cumin seeds together. Toss with the carrots and lemon. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Roast at 450° until caramelized, about 35–40 minutes.



Another spice blend that will definitely awaken your taste buds is zhug. I have a quick story about my introduction to this green hot sauce that uses cardamom pods and cumin. My husband and I visited his relatives in Israel and we had a wonderful *aruchat arbah*, the 4:00 snack better known as tea time, except with iced coffee, not tea. We had pita and hummous and there was a bit of a green sauce. Our cousin said, "Try a little bit on the pita". We put a little on our pita. She said, "No, less". We took some off. She said, "No, less". We did. Wow! Our taste buds were on fire but beneath the fire was a delicious taste.

from Bon Appetit

Zchug

Makes 1-1/2 cups

4 fresh green serrano or jalapeno peppers, remove stems and seeds
1 head of garlic
½ bunch of cilantro, rinsed and dried
½ bunch parsley, rinsed and dried
1 teaspoon ground cumin
seeds from 2 green cardamom pods
1 teaspoon salt
¼–½ cup olive oil

Put all the ingredients into a food processor and begin blending and gradually adding about ¼ cup of olive oil. Puree to a smooth paste. Check the seasonings and add more salt if needed

Transfer to a sterilized glass jar and cover with additional olive oil. Seal the jar so it is airtight and refrigerate. It will keep in the refrigerator for several months.

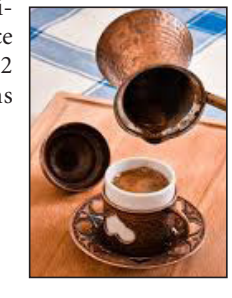
Add a little of the zhug to a pot of soup to really spice it up. It can also be used to add super flavor and heat to egg dishes or sauces. You certainly can dip your pita in it, just be careful.

Not all the spices from the Middle East have to be in a spice blend. Cardamom is just one of them. Here is a bonus recipe from Levana Aronson. It is a sweet, delicious and a wonderful drink to have while solving problems great and small or just catching up with a friend. This serves two.

Turkish coffee

Put everything into a pot and mix and bring to a boil. As soon as it starts bubbling pour into small cups. Delicious with a small piece of cake or Turkish 2 heaping tablespoons of Turkish coffee

1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon of cardamom
½–1 tsp of sugar (can add more or less)
2 cups of water



November 2018

Thursday 1

TBE Baking Mavens: TBE. 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Democracy Potluck: BIC Adult Social Group. 6 p.m.

Judaism 101: TBE. 7–8 p.m.

Arts Around Town: A Conversation with Lisa Kron: JCC, EMU and Jewish Federation. Lisa Kron, playwright and Tony award winner for the show "Fun Home," talks with Jessica "Decky" Alexander, Theater Professor at Eastern Michigan University, during this "actor's studio" style evening. Held in the EMU Student Center Ballroom. This event is co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, the JCC Books and Arts Festival, the Eastern Michigan University (EMU) Honors Program, the EMU English Department, EMU Women's and Gender Studies, and EMU Communication, Media, and Theater Arts. For information, contact Karen by phone at (734) 971-0990 or via email at karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org. 7:30–9 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study from the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Thursdays.*

Friday 2

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5 p.m.

Family Service and Shabbat Dinner: BIC. 5:45 p.m.

First Friday Shabbat with Judy Seid: JCS. Join the Jewish Cultural Society for a special Shabbat when former JCS leader, Rabbi Judith Seid, will lead an event called "The Oldest Jewish Thing." After welcoming Shabbat with secular readings, songs, candle lighting, wine, and challah, participants will eat a catered dinner from a local restaurant. Following dinner, those who brought "the oldest Jewish thing" from their home will describe the object. Judy will then add cultural and historical context to the discussion. Dinner is free for JCS members and $10/person or $25/family for non-members. Register online at www.jewishculturalsociety.org/observances/shabbat. Children are welcome. Those who prefer to come after dinner, may arrive at 7:45 p.m. 6:30–9 p.m.

Family Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner from 6:15–6:45 p.m. Shira from 6:45–7:15 p.m. Shabbat Service from 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 3

Religious School: TBE. 8:30–10:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

5th Grade Family Program: TBE. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10 a.m.–Noon.

Shabbat Morning Chant and Meditation: Pardes Hannah. Led by Gabrielle, Linda Leah and Dalinda. Held in the Beth Israel Annex at 2020 Washtenaw Avenue. 10:30 a.m.

Religious School: TBE. 10:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Preschool 3: TBE. 10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

9th Grade Madrichim Training: TBE. 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tot Shabbat: AAOM. Spirited and lively Tot Shabbat meeting every 1st and 3rd Saturday. For tots ages 0–5 years old and their families. Tot friendly service with singing, storytime, and a kids Kiddush to follow. Held at Hillel, 1429 Hill Street. Non-members welcome and encouraged to attend. For details, email community@annarborminyan.org or visit www.annarborminyan.org. 11:15 a.m.–Noon.

Community Conversation with Social Action Committee: TBE. 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Euchre Night: TBE. 8–9:30 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 4

Book Talk: JCS and JCC. Rabbi Judith Seid, former leader of the Jewish Cultural Society, will talk about her revised book, *God-Optional Judaism: Alternatives for Cultural Jews Who Love Their History, Heritage and Community.* Seid is a graduate of the Rabbinic and Cantorial programs of the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism and holds a master's degree in Jewish Communal Studies from Hebrew Union College. In addition to directing the JCS, she founded the Baltimore Cultural Chavurah in 1998 and most recently, the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews of Pleasanton, California. Seid's book is a handbook for Jews looking for creative and meaningful ways to express their own way of being Jewish. The book is geared towards those who express their Jewishness through a sense of community, a love of nature, a commitment to social justice, a celebration of Jewish history and culture and an ongoing evolution of Jewish identity, rather than through prayers and God-centered rituals. Part of JCC Jewish Book Festival. 10 a.m.–Noon.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m. *Sundays.*

Adult Social Group General Meeting: BIC. 12:30 p.m.

Hebrew School: TBE. 3–5 p.m.

Delving into the Prayer Book: TBE. 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Arts Around Town: Irene Butter in Conversation with Ken Fischer: JCC and TBE. *Shores Beyond Shores: From Holocaust to Hope: My True Story*, the recently released memoir by Irene Hasenberg Butter and co-authors John Bidwell and Kris Holloway, tells the story of Irene and her family before and during the Holocaust. It is a testament to the endurance and triumph of the human spirit. For information, contact Karen by phone at (734) 971-0990 or via email at karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org.4–5:30 p.m.

Shir Chadash: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Religious School: TBE. 6–7:30 p.m.

Kol Halev: TBE. 6:15–7:45 p.m.

Monday 5

Judaism 101: TBE. 1–2 p.m.

***Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group):** All levels and ages welcome for conversation in *mameloshn*, literally the "mother tongue." Meets at Maizie's Kitchen & Market in the UM Michigan League, 911 North University Avenue. Free and open to all lovers of Yiddish language, whether affiliated with the university or not. All manner of topics are discussed, with an effort to improve participants' Yiddish speaking skills, especially vocabulary. Bring your own lunch or purchase something from the café. For information, email egertel@umich.edu or phone (734) 936-2367. 1 p.m. *Mondays*.

Midrash in Hebrew: BIC. 3:30 p.m.

Keshet: TBE. 5:30–8:30 p.m.

WTBE Fiber Arts: TBE. 7:30–9 p.m.

Tuesday 6

KidZone Vacation Day: JCC. KidZone Vacation provides fun and adventure for children in K-5 when Ann Arbor Public Schools and Hebrew Day School have scheduled closures. Children enjoy computer time, games, reading time, arts and crafts time, sports, and a kid-friendly movie. Pre and post care available. Visit www.jccannarbor.org for more information or for pricing or contact Nicole at nicolefeinberg@jccannarbor.org or by phone at (734) 971-0990. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Screening and Discussion: Frankel Center. "GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II" tells the story of the 550,000 Jewish American men and women who fought in World War II. Co-sponsored by UM Department of American Culture, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies and the International Institute. In their own words, veterans both famous (Mel Brooks and Henry Kissinger) and unknown share their war experiences. The screening will be followed by a discussion with the film's director, Lisa Ades, and Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor of History Deborah Dash Moore. Held in Room 2022, 202 South Thayer Street. Contact judaicstudies@umich.edu or phone (734) 763-9047 for accessibility information. 5:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study of the text with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Wednesday 7

Wrestling With Faith: Chabad. Most people, even the devout, struggle with beliefs about God. It is easy, for example, to affirm the basic tenets of Judaism during a prayer service, but when it comes to trusting God with our daily decisions, may share a secret, painful fear that God isn't really looking out for them. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Mahj: TBE. Offsite. 1–3 p.m.

Hebrew School: TBE. 4:30 p.m.

Keshet: TBE. 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Rosh Chodesh Kislev Gathering: Pardes Hannah. Facilitated by Lucinda Kurtz. At the home of Lucinda and Oran, 350 Rock Creek Drive. 7 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC. 8 p.m.

Thursday 8

"The Past as a Foreign Country: Remembering Spain in Ottoman Lands:" Frankel Center. Presented by Julia Phillips Cohen, Vanderbilt University. In June 2015, the Spanish government approved legislation granting citizenship to the descendants of Jews expelled from Spain in 1492. This political development has sparked a flurry of interest from Jews of Iberian origin across the globe—from Latin America and the U.S. to Israel and Turkey. Based on the assumption of Sephardi Jews' continued cultural identification with their one-time homeland, the law promises to reward their "fidelity and special ties to Spain." Yet, the precise nature of this historic relationship, explains historian Julia Phillips Cohen, is more complex than such characterizations suggest. Using the present debates as a point of departure, her talk will probe the evolution of Sephardi Jews' ties to Spain in the centuries following their expulsion. For questions about the building's accessibility, contact judaicstudies@umich.edu or phone (734) 763-9047. Room 2000, 202 South Thayer Street. 1 p.m.

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Judaism 101: TBE. 7–8 p.m.

Arts Around Town: Maya Barzilai: JCC and BIC. Maya Barzilai, assistant professor of Hebrew Culture and Literature at the University of Michigan, examines representations of the Golem legend in 20th and early 21st century literature and film in her book, *Golem: Modern Wars and Their Monsters.*" For information, contact Karen at karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org of by phone at (734) 971-0990. 7–8:30 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. See first Thursday of month for details. 8 p.m. *Thursdays.*

Friday 9

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5 p.m.

Family Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner from 6:15–6:45 p.m. Shira from 6:45–7:15 p.m. Shabbat Service from 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 10

Religious School: TBE. 8:30–10:15 a.m.

Torah Study: TBE. 8:50-9:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. 9 a.m.

Bar Mitzvah Service: TBE. 10 a.m.–Noon.

Religious School: TBE. 10:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Mini Minyan: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Event: TBE. 12:30–6 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 11

Gan Katan: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m. *Sundays.*

Rishonim and Kadima Event: TBE. 1–3 p.m.

Hebrew School: TBE. 3–5 p.m.

The Practice of Forgiveness: Pardes Hannah. Teachings with Lucinda Kurtz and Oran Hesterman. For details, contact lucinda@lucinda.kurtz.com. 2–5 p.m.

Delving into the Prayer Book: TBE. 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Shir Chadash: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Religious School: TBE. 6–7:30 p.m.

Kol Halev: TBE. 6:15–7:45 p.m.

Monday 12

WTBE Historical Novel Reading Group: TBE. 12:30–2 p.m.

***Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group).** 1 p.m. *See November 5.*

Judaism 101: TBE. 1–2 p.m.

Midrash in Hebrew: BIC. 3:30 p.m.

Keshet: TBE. 5;30–8:30 p.m.

Arts Around Town: The Yellow Ticket: JCC, Frankel Center, Copernicus Program in Polish Studies and Michigan Theater. Showing at the Michigan Theater of the rare 1918 silent film, *The Yellow Ticket,* starring a young Pola Negri, who would later become the legendary femme fatale of the silent film era. The film tells the story of a young Jewish woman from a Polish shtetl constrained by anti-Semitic restrictions to lead a double life in a brothel while attempting to study medicine in Tsarist Russia. The film includes precious footage of the former Jewish quarter of Warsaw and the people who once lived there. During the film showing, renowned klezmer violinist, vocalist and composer, Alicia Svigals will perform live the original score she composed for the film along with Toronto virtuoso new-music pianist Marilyn Lerner. Svigals is the world's foremost klezmer fiddler, a founder of the Grammy-winning Klezmatics, and a 2014 NEW MacDowell Fellow in composition. To purchase tickets, visit www.michtheater.org. 7–8:30 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Tuesday 13

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study of the text with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

"The Bizarre Tales of Yiddishland: What the Yiddish Press Reveals About Jews:" Frankel Center. Eddy Portnoy, of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, exposes the seamy underbelly of pre-World War II New York and Warsaw, the two major centers of Yiddish culture in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. With true stories of Jewish drunks, thieves, murderers, wrestlers, psychics, and beauty queens, all plucked from the pages of the Yiddish dailies, Portnoy will present the Jews whose follies and foibles were fodder for urban gossip before winding up at the bottom of bird

Temple Beth Emeth Sisterhood Gift Shop

Chanukah Bazaar

Saturday, Nov. 17 9am-2pm
Sunday, Nov. 18 3-7:30pm

Shop for menorahs, dreidels, candles, gelt, cards, gift wrap, toys, music, jewelry and gifts.
Everything you need for Chanukah and more!
Gifts from local artisans, too!

YEAR-END BETTER HEARING REMINDER.

As the year comes to a close, open yourself to better hearing in the coming year.

Get full value for your HSA or insurance this year with a hearing evaluation from our expert Audiologists at MOSA Audiology. Improved technology means improved hearing, and that can lead to an improved life.

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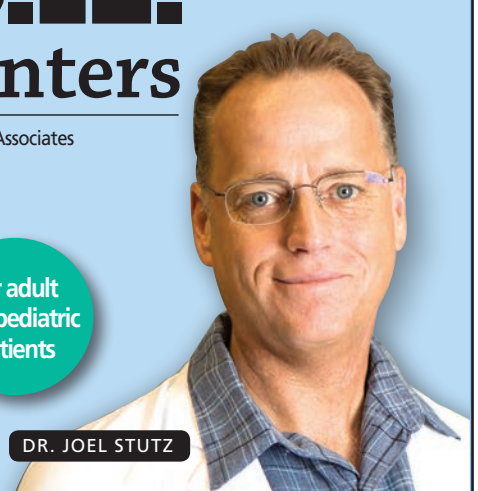

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Calendar

cages or as wrapping for dead fish. Supported by Clifford and Fannie Epstein Fund. Held in Room 2022, 202 South Thayer Street. Contact judaicstudies@umich.edu or phone (734) 763-9047 for accessibility information. 4 p.m.

Wednesday 14

Wrestling With Faith: Chabad. Most people, even the devout, struggles with beliefs about God. It is easy, for example, to affirm the basic tenets of Judaism during a prayer service, but when it comes to trusting God with our daily decisions, may share a secret, painful fear that God isn't really looking out for them. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Hebrew School: TBE. 4:30 p.m.

Keshet: TBE. 6:30 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC. 8 p.m.

Thursday 15

Third Thursday @ the J: The Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel: JCC. Live-stream presentation of Hadas Fuchs from the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel. Presented in conjunction with the Israel Center @ the J, which provides opportunities for individuals to engage with Israel thoughtfully and respectfully, together as a community. The talk is free of charge, but RSVP is requested. Optional lunch available for purchase for $5.50. To reserve a lunch at least one day in advance, phone (734) 971-0990. RSVP at www.jccannarbor.org. Noon–1 p.m.

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Brotherhood Guys' Night Out: TBE. 6–7:30 p.m.

Judaism 101: TBE. 7–8 p.m.

"From Baghdad to Brooklyn:" TBE. WTBE Hosts Michelle Azar, film and stage actress, singer, yoga instructor, storyteller, Hebrew speaker, rabbi's wife and mother. This one-women show, written and performed by Azar, was a sellout success on Broadway in September 2017. Accompaniment by Dave Gitterman. Dessert reception follows the 60-minute performance. Tickets in advance at www.wtbe.org and at the night of the performance for $20/adults; $15/students. 2309 Packard Street. 7:30 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. See first Thursday of month for details. 8 p.m. *Thursdays.*

Friday 16

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5 p.m.

Tot Shabbat: TBE. 5:45–6:15 p.m.

Tot Shabbat Dinner: TBE. 6:15–6:45 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. 5th Grade Shabbat. 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 17

Religious School: TBE. 8:30–10:15 a.m.

Torah Study: TBE. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

WTBE Chanukah Bazaar: TBE. 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10 a.m.–Noon.

Religious School: TBE. 10:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Baby Shabbat: TBE. 10:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

9th Grade Madrichim Training: TBE. 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tot Shabbat: AAOM. Spirited and lively Tot Shabbat meeting every 1st and 3rd Saturday. For tots ages 0–5 years old and their families. Tot friendly service with singing, storytime, and a kids Kiddush to follow. Held at Hillel, 1429 Hill Street. Non-members welcome and encouraged to attend. For details, email community@annarborminyan.org or visit www.annarborminyan.org. 11:15 a.m.–Noon.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 18

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m. *Sundays.*

Study Session–Song of Songs: Pardes Hannah. At home of Elliot and Linda, 2924 Baylis Drive. 11 a.m.

Hebrew School: TBE. 3–5 p.m.

Delving into the Prayer Book: TBE. 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Shir Chadash: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Religious School: TBE. 6–7:30 p.m.

Kol Halev: TBE. 6:15–7:45 p.m.

Monday 19

***Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group).** 1 p.m. *See November 5.*

Judaism 101: TBE. 1–2 p.m.

Midrash in Hebrew: BIC. 3:30 p.m.

Keshet: TBE. 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. 7–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 20

Erev Thanksgiving Interfaith Service: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m. *See first Tuesday of month.*

Wednesday 21

Wrestling With Faith: Chabad. Most people, even the devout, struggle with beliefs about God. It is easy, for example, to affirm the basic tenets of Judaism during a prayer service, but when it comes to trusting God with our daily decisions, may share a secret, painful fear that God isn't really looking out for them. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC. 8 p.m.

Thursday 22

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. See first Thursday of month for details. 8 p.m. *Thursdays.*

Friday 23

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5 p.m.

Tot Shabbat Dinner: TBE. 6–6:30 p.m.

Guitar-led Shabbat Service: TBE. 6:30–8 p.m.

Friendsgiving Potluck: BIC. 7 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 24

Torah Study: TBE. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10 a.m.–Noon.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

Mini Minyan: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 25

Monthly Playgroup: TBE. Offsite. 10–Noon.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m. *Sundays.*

WTBE Cooking for Rotating Shelter: TBE. 2–6 p.m.

Delving into the Prayer Book: TBE. 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Shir Chadash: TBE. 5–6:30 p.m.

Kol Halev: TBE. 6:15–7:45 p.m.

Monday 26

***Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group).** 1 p.m. *See November 5.*

Judaism 101: TBE. 1–2 p.m.

Midrash in Hebrew: BIC. 3:30 p.m.

Keshet: TBE. 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Tuesday 27

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m. *See first Tuesday of month.*

Wednesday 28

Hebrew School: TBE. 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC. 8 p.m.

Keshet: TBE. 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Thursday 29

Wrestling With Faith: Chabad. Most people, even the devout, struggle with beliefs about God. It is easy, for example, to affirm the basic tenets of Judaism during a prayer service, but when it comes to trusting God with our daily decisions, may share a secret, painful fear that God isn't really looking out for them. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Judaism 101: TBE. 7–8 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. See first Thursday of month for details. 8 p.m. *Thursdays.*

Friday 30

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5 p.m.

Tot Shabbat: TBE. 5:45–6:15 p.m.

Tot Shabbat Dinner: TBE. 6–6:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. 7:30–9 p.m.

December 1

Special Evening of Classical Guitar with Charles Mokotoff: TBE. Presented by the Women of Temple Beth Emeth (WTBE). Mokotoff is an accomplished guitarist, lutenist and lecturer, with bachelor's and master's degrees in guitar performance from Syracuse University and Ithaca College. Severely hard of hearing for a good deal of his life, he is an outspoken proponent of making music with hearing loss. Dessert reception follows. 2309 Packard Street. $20/adults; $15/students. Tickets at www.wtbe.org. 7:30 p.m.

December 2

Chanukah Celebration: JCS. The community is invited to join the Jewish Cultural Society's Sunday School Chanukah activities. Held at the JCC. To register, email info@jewishculturalsociety.org. 10:30 a.m.–Noon.

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call (734) 994-9258 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 6 p.m., followed by tot dinner. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Once a month Middle School Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call (734) 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: AARC. Every fourth Friday at the JCC. Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Pizza for the little ones at 6:15 p.m. Service at 6:30 p.m., followed by vegetarian potluck at 8 p.m. Childcare during service. All are welcome to attend. For information, email info@aarecon.org, phone (734) 445-1910, or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candle lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call (734) 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call (734) 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Ma'ariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvar Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals. UM Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m. For other service times, visit www.bethisrael-aa.org.

Shabbat Services: AARC. Second Saturday of each month at the JCC. 10 a.m. Ta-Shma/Come and Learn. Service begins at 10:30 a.m. Traditional liturgy with music, chanting and contemporary readings and discussion. For information, email info@aarecon.org, phone (734) 445-1910, or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Friday night services at Shabbat candle lighting time. Saturday morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon Mincha services 45 minutes before sundown. Call (734) 995-3276 for Home Hospitality and Meals for Shabbat and Jewish Holidays.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call (734) 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study at 8:50 a.m. Morning Minyan with Rabbi Josh Whinston and Cantor Regina Lambert-Hayut at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. most weeks. Call the office at (734) 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call (734) 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and Holiday. Call (734) 995-3276 in advance.

Phone numbers and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

November 2	6:06 pm
November 9	4:58 pm
November 16	4:51 pm
November 23	4:46 pm
November 30	4:43 pm

Teens

Two communities, one family: The 2018 Student Exchange Program visit to Ann Arbor

Claudia Halpern, special to the WJN

For dozens of teens in Ann Arbor, Moshav Nahalal is not a random community in Israel. It represents their second home. On September 20, Ann Arbor welcomed 11 teens from Nahalal for the second part of the 2018 Ann Arbor-Nahalal Student Exchange program. When the Nahalal group left a week later, they too felt they had their own second home. They departed with tears of sadness along with new memories and experiences that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Do you remember the first time you experienced a Michigan autumn? For those who have been to Israel, do you remember your first trip? For teens who take part in this program, all those memories are crystal clear.

From the moment this year's Israeli delegation arrived in Ann Arbor, they were welcomed like family. Online apps such as WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook had enabled this international group to stay close even though they had been an ocean apart since last January. For seven days, the Ann Arbor and Nahalal groups became one and experienced Ann Arbor together. Being Jewish in America is very different than being Jewish in Israel, and our teens were able to experience both. Their experience included visits to the JCC's Tot Shabbat program and Hebrew Day School, participation in Sukkot and religious school programs at Beth Israel Congregation and Temple Beth Emeth, and volunteering at Jewish Family Services. These helped demonstrate the extra efforts American teens exert to get a Jewish education and stay connected to the Jewish community. Classroom visits at Community High School highlighted more similarities than differences between the two communities.

Although Jewish and academic life in America are a key part of this experience, there was plenty of time for local teens to show their friends what's great about being a teenager in Ann Arbor. Local teens accompanied the Israelis to Airtime, the apple orchard, and the Ford River Rouge Factory. Excursions to local landmarks were peppered across the entire week including: a private tour of the Big House and painting the Rock.

Beyond the site visits, conversations and tours, the group bonded around bonfires, at group dinners and during their sleepover. Teens from across the community enjoyed an Israel-themed dance party at the JCC. The participants in both groups say that they now have a home in Nahalal and in Ann Arbor.

Since 2010, this two-part exchange program has highlighted the uniqueness and richness our two communities and enabled over 100 local teens to build lifelong friendships with their peers in Nahalal, Israel. Each visit provides participants the opportunity to experience life, as teens and as Jews, in very different and enriching environments. The program is funded by the Ann Arbor Federation's Partnership2Gether allocation and is an integral part of the Michigan-Central Galilee P2G program in collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. Recruitment is now underway for the 2019 Student Exchange; the trip to Nahalal will take place March 21–31, 2019. Parents and teens in 9th grade are invited to an informational meeting Tuesday, November 6, 7 p.m., at the JCC. Eighth grade families who are considering participating in the future are also encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Jessica Weil at Jessica@jewishannarbor.org or (734) 677-0100, ext. 227. ■

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~ Lisa Saulles

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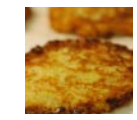
JCS

Celebrate Chanukah
with the Jewish Cultural Society
Sunday, December 2 at 10:30 am



JCS is a secular humanistic community that welcomes Jewish, intercultural, and nontraditional families and individuals to celebrate Jewish life in our warm and welcoming community.

We invite you celebrate Chanukah with us!

when Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
where JCC - 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, Ann Arbor
please register info@jewishculturalsociety.org or 734-975-9872

Vitals

Mazel tov

Rhys Burman on his bar mitzvah, November 10.

Condolences

The family of Gloria Abrams on her death, September 12.
J.P Dessel on the death of his wife, Adrienne Dessel, September 12.
The family of Eleanor Feller-Sussman on her death, September 18.
The family of Sherri Peller on her death, September 27.
Nikki Klein on the death of her mother, Ilona Klein, October 3.
Martha Young on the death of her mother, Florence Sachs Finkelstein, October 4.
Greg (Toby) Lewis on the death of his father, Patrick H. Crowe, September 21.
Warren (Judy) Williams on the death of his mother, Rosalie Williams, September 16.
Judith (Daniel) Smith on the death of her mother, Janice Smith, September 27.

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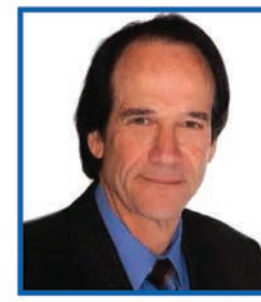
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